

445-02493-060

Abominable snowmen are real! Scientific proof
and documented eyewitness accounts of these
bizarre beasts throughout the world...

STRANGE ABOMINABLE SNOWMEN

BY WARREN SMITH



HABITS OF THE HAIRY MONSTERS

- *They avoid civilization—but will attack when provoked.*
- *They form families.*
- *They live in the mountains.*
- *They have highly developed senses.*
- *They speak their own language.*
- *They have been known to live to be 500 years old.*

Scientists have wondered over the strange abominable snowman for centuries. Now, there are films, photographs, archaeological findings and other artifacts that prove conclusively the existence of what for many years was thought to be a legend.

These hairy monsters do not exist *only* in the Himalayas, but throughout the world—even right here in the United States.

Here are the real facts behind the strange abominable snowmen, the world's most astounding phenomena . . .

STRANGE ABOMINABLE SNOWMEN

BY WARREN SMITH

POPULAR LIBRARY • NEW YORK

All POPULAR LIBRARY books are carefully selected by the POPULAR LIBRARY Editorial Board and represent titles by the world's greatest authors.

POPULAR LIBRARY EDITION

Copyright © 1970 by Warren Smith

DEDICATION

To my brother, Bob; and Bryce and Leisa

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

All Rights Reserved

THE TRUTH ABOUT ABOMINABLE SNOWMEN

Abominable snowmen are real!

Like primitive beasts from the bogs of some prehistoric swamp, these incredible half-men, half-animals have been sighted throughout the world for centuries. Blizzards of new reports of eerie encounters with these strange biological throwbacks are now puzzling authorities in several countries.

Already an actual specimen of an abominable snowman has been captured. A hunter may zero his rifle in on a shadowy form in a foggy swamp and blast down one of these hairy monsters. Scientists in several countries are equipping expeditions to snare a live specimen of these elusive creatures. The 'boogie' men of the dark forests really do exist. We will soon see him staring back at us from the screen of our television sets.

Fantastic? Unbelievable? Let's forget the myths and legends and look at the real facts surrounding this incredible mystery.

A group of Wisconsin hunters stare in awed amazement when a huge, hairy man-beast tramps through a

snowy swamp near Fremont, Wisconsin. The sighting occurred in December, 1968, and only a few newspapers published the story. This sighting is but one of many in the midwestern states.

The Smithsonian Institute, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and newsmen are searching for the frozen corpse of a snowman. The grisly body was allegedly smuggled into the United States by a mysterious millionaire. Two world-famous scientists examined the remains and their conclusions are making scientific history.

Harold Nelson, a retired grocer, was terrified when his camper was invaded by a "gigantic, eight-foot creature" near Billings, Montana on the night of September 11, 1958. "It stood erect like a man, weighed six to eight hundred pounds and was definitely not a gorilla," Nelson emphatically declared. Many other vacationers, motorists and campers have encountered similar creatures in several widely-separated parts of the United States.

A noted Russian scientist has announced that he has the skeleton of a female beast. "The bones indicate the possibility of an entirely new family, neither ape nor man," he stated. The Russians also tell of primitive men-beasts in the Caucasus Mountains, the majestic chain which separates Europe and Asia. Farmers in this area have captured abominable snow creatures and taught them to diligently perform simple chores on their farms.

A former Canadian logger claims to have been kidnapped by a gigantic 'papa' *sasquatch* in the forests and dragged to the animal's cave as the possible bridegroom for a shy female monster. Needless to say, his intended mate was undoubtedly a sight to send any young man into convulsions.

Skeptics frequently ask: "If these creatures are real, why haven't we caught one?" There is a considerable amount of data indicating that we have! Another female

was captured in the Himalayan mountains prior to World War I and exhibited for several months as a curiosity in a Chinese city. The crewmen of a train in British Columbia brought a young male *sasquatch* into civilization, where he was examined by hundreds of people.

When we apply the modern descriptions of these creatures against the ancient legends of demons and werewolves, we discover an amazing similarity. Since the beginning of time, ancient scribes have written about man-beasts that preyed on small, isolated settlements. Their tales apparently had definite basis in fact.

In Australia, Asia, South America, Africa, Europe and North America, we have hundreds of sightings of these mysterious animals. The great forest near Eureka, California, is considered the "home of the 'Big Foot,'" and footprints measuring up to 20 inches in length, and 12 inches in width, have been found in these mountains.

It was in this unmapped forest that Roger Patterson, a former rodeo rider, followed the trail of the Big Foot on several expeditions. On October 20, 1967, Patterson and his partner, Bob Gimlin, came upon a strange, hairy beast walking upright through the timbers. The result of this encounter was a controversial strip of color movie film that has puzzled the experts on several continents.

"Beware the *Yeti* because he rules the mountains," was a native warning to the first western explorers of Asia's remote Himalayan mountains. The warning was once considered to be a "silly native superstition." Actually, mountaineers have been sighting and reporting the *Yeti* for more than a century. One scientist has even tracked the shaggy beasts to their caves and brought out important evidence of their existence.

Russian peasants have also been talking about these creatures for several centuries. In the last decade, a committee of scientists in the Soviet Union has collected several hundred reports. Their work has triggered gov-

ernment financed expeditions to bring back an *alamasti*—dead or alive!

"The actual body of a snowman will shatter science," a prominent American scientist informed me when I was writing a magazine article on "*America's Home-Grown Monsters*."

"Proof of their existence would be a blow to several areas of study, including history, biology, anthropology, zoology and several others. Several subjects would have to be revised. Entire textbooks might have to be rewritten," he continued. "The turmoil would certainly be tremendous."

There would also be some very interesting legal problems. Our laws do not accurately define *homo sapiens*. Our jurists might have to determine what sum or substance of blood, flesh, bone, brain and soul actually constitutes a human being.

Will snowmen be tagged animals and caged in zoos? Will it be permissible to trap and hunt them like deer or elk? They could hardly be considered human and subject to the laws that apply to every citizen. "I believe we will take an easy way out and make them wards of the government," an attorney declared.

What the gold fields of California were to the forty-niners, or the new world was to Columbus and his crew, the abominable snowman has become to a hearty band of "monster hunters." Their prey is the hairy man-beast that is quiet, elusive and extremely clever in avoiding capture.

Experts on the abominable snowman have tabulated the descriptions gathered from eyewitnesses all over the world. Despite the frightening experience, eyewitnesses voice an amazing pattern of similarity in their descriptions.

A police radio alert might describe the snowmen in this manner:

"Calling all cars. Be on the lookout for a two-footed animal that walks erect and is a cross between a man and an ape. The suspect appears to be as primitive as a Neanderthal man. His body is covered with a short, reddish-black hair, except for the soles of his feet, his palms and portions of his face. He wears the hair on his head in long Hippie fashion.

"The suspect is known as the abominable snowman. He goes by the name of *Yeti*, in the Himalayan mountains of Asia. In California, he is known as '*Mr. Big Foot*.' In Canada, he has the alias of *Sasquatch*. He is hideous in appearance, stands from seven to ten feet tall and is reported to weigh from four hundred to one thousand pounds. He is usually seen in the remote mountainous parts of the world."

With that admittedly incredible description in our minds, let us look at the real facts behind one of the most puzzling phenomena of the modern world.

HABITS OF THE HAIRY MONSTERS

Gordon Nicholson, an expert on the Canadian *Sasquatch* and an enthusiastic monster hunter, has collected an impressive amount of information on the ABSMs throughout the world. He believes these enigmatic man-beasts may be an entirely new species. "I don't believe we should categorize them as a missing link," Nicholson declared recently. "We should consider them a mystery until we have more information."

Gordon Nicholson has formulated some definite conclusions about their customs and habits. His theories include:

They avoid civilization.

"A weak species, dependent on secrecy to survive, will retreat into the less desirable areas of the world," Nicholson said. "ABSMs are not aggressive, although there are accounts of attacks on people or villages. They come at night to forage on farms and drift back into the woods before daybreak. They will attack if they are provoked, frightened or wounded and people should be warned about this."

They form families.

"There is some evidence of tribal living, but it is inconclusive," Nicholson said. "The majority of my reports indicates they live in family units."

They like to live in mountains.

"This is natural, because mountains are usually the last place to be settled," said Nicholson. "As Roger Patterson has pointed out, they usually come down into the valleys at harvest time and sometimes during the winter. You must remember that there are still millions of acres of virtually unmapped land where no white man has walked. ABSMs could exist there for centuries."

They have highly developed senses.

"I don't believe they're very bright. They do not seem to use fire and some Asians in the outlying villages claim they are seeking the magic of fire," continued Nicholson. "Their senses are highly developed. I think one reason for their attacks on people, or automobiles, is that their hearing may be quite sensitive. The whine of a power saw or the blare of an automobile horn may actually hurt them."

They have a language.

"There are reports from every continent of ABSMs making a high-pitched or gurgling sound," Nicholson said. "Often, their cries are described as being like an infant's cries. They talk between themselves in some form of gibberish."

They may live to be 200 to 500 years old.

"I owe this theory to Roger Patterson," said Nicholson. "He said that the reason we don't find carcasses or skeletons is the possibility of their long life. It is fascinating to consider that these enormous forest creatures may have been peeking from the woods when the first white men stepped onto the North American land mass."

They are vegetarians.

"There is some evidence of meat eating," said Nichol-

son, "but most reports would indicate they live on fruits, berries, nuts, wild vegetables and fish. The *Yeti* in the Himalayas are known to eat frogs and other small animals."

HOW THE SNOWMAN GOT HIS NAME

The ring-a-ding days of the roaring twenties had barely begun in 1921. Free wheeling plungers were pouring their savings into the bubbling stock market, bragging about their paper profits, and drowning their doubts in jugs of bathtub gin.

On the other side of the world, in Asia, Colonel H. W. Howard-Bury led the First Everest Expedition up the icy slopes of the Ihapka La pass. The six British mountain climbers and their 26 native Sherpa porters hoped to plant the British flag on the summit of Mt. Everest, the tallest peak in the unmapped Himalayan mountains.

The group prepared to depart from a night's encampment when the cry of a frightened Sherpa porter interrupted the morning stillness. "Bad luck! We are doomed," cried the Sherpa. "The *Mebteh Kangli* is above us."

The Britishers followed the porter's trembling finger toward a glacier above them. A line of dark figures moved single file along the edge of the ice. One mountaineer grabbed his binoculars and zeroed in on the distant figures.

"This is preposterous," he sputtered. "Look . . . those things look like apes. Or, maybe they're men in fur coats."

As quickly as they had been sighted, the moving figures passed behind a jutting strip of ice and were lost from view. Later, that same afternoon, the expedition spotted tracks in the fresh fallen snow. Most of the prints were those of rabbits and other small game. Another set of tracks looked suspiciously like the imprint of a barefooted man!

"Don't be confused," a Sherpa advised. "Those are the tracks of the *Mehteh Kangli*—He is the animal who rules here. He was probably tracking the animals for food."

"What is this *Mehteh Kangli*?" Colonel Howard-Bury inquired.

"He is the man-beast of the mountains," the Sherpa replied. "He walks erect like a man. He has a hairy fur to protect him from the winds. He does not like to be approached. Those who disturb him usually regret it."

Subsequently, Colonel Howard-Bury telegraphed his report on the *Mehteh Kangli* to his aides in Calcutta. During transmission, "*Mehteh Kangli*" was garbled into "Metch Kangli" and a Calcutta newspaper columnist was confused by the phrase.

"I'm going to take a wild guess on this one, chaps," the columnist said. "It must mean they've sighted a 'terrible snowman' or a disgusting creature. We might call it the abominable snowman."

Within minutes, news bulletins about the horrible "abominable snowman" of the Himalayas were telegraphed to newspapers throughout the world. After failing to climb the mountain, Colonel Howard-Bury and his climbers returned to civilization.

"What about those ugly snowmen?" reporters persisted.

"Did they attack your expedition? Are they as horrible as we've heard in the rumors?" another inquired.

"I believe those tracks were nothing more than those of wolves," replied Col. Howard-Bury, indignantly. "How could a tribe of wild men live in the mountains? Good Lord, my chaps couldn't climb the mountain, let alone live there in that desolate area. It is preposterous!"

Despite his protests, Col. Howard-Bury saw the legends of the snowmen grow. Newspaper editors ran features on the legendary beasts. Artists gave full rein to their imaginations and created vivid illustrations of man-beasts, the ape-men of the Himalayas as they kidnapped women, pillaged villages and scared children. The "abominable snowmen" were destined to be the new mystery. Some said it was as if the horrible boogie man had suddenly turned up alive.

Born in the error of a telegrapher's mistake, the name stayed with the snowman.

ALBUQUERQUE'S AMAZING "CRY BABY" MONSTER

"It was about five feet tall, looked part human and cried like a baby," said Hubert Miller. "I thought someone was walking around in a monkey suit. Then I realized this thing was for real!" Mr. Miller's description of the mysterious miniature monster was similar to scores of statements from other alarmed citizens in Albuquerque, New Mexico during the October, 1966, reign of the weird "cry baby" monster.

Mr. Miller was searching for a friend's home on the southwest side of the city when the weird night prowler loomed up in his headlights. "I hit the power brakes hard. I thought I was going to hit someone," Miller said. "My wife bumped her head on the windshield. She was stunned for a moment, and then really did a double-take."

"It wasn't a man and it certainly was not a gorilla," said Mrs. Miller. "It stood there, transfixed in our headlights, and then shuffled off into the nearest yard. It sounded like a baby crying."

Miller's eerie experience was just one of the many sightings in Albuquerque. The Clifford McGuire family, also on the southwest side of the city, informed deputy sheriffs that a "five foot thing" covered with hair persistently wandered into their back yard. The creature's noises sounded "like a crying child."

The *Albuquerque Journal* reported on the monster's appearance for several weeks. One family informed the police that the monster appeared outside their home and the family cat raced outside to chase the intruder. Hair stiffened, eyes widened and meeker in manner, a subdued cat clamored to get into the house a few minutes later.

"Where do you begin on this thing?" asked Albuquerque Police Lieutenant Joe Sutton. "At least we have something to go on when we have a normal prowler call."

The midget monster, whose descriptions sounded like a small ABSM, plagued the residents of Albuquerque's South Valley section for more than a month. Then, it vanished as quickly as it arrived.

YOUR GUIDE TO YETI WATCHING

In Canada, the Indians claim there are two kinds of *Sasquatch* monsters lurking deep in the forests. "There are the giant creatures that stand up to ten feet tall," an old Indian told ABSM-hunter Gordon Nicholson. "The others are small, man-size and not so ferocious. The two types always fight. I heard their battle cries at night when I was a small child."

Reports of ABSMs from Asia indicate there are several different species. They include:

Yeti or *Meh-teh*: This is the popular version of the abominable snowman, a man-ape type of sub-human. It stands from six to ten feet in height and is covered with a reddish-brown hair. It does not have a neck. A huge, sloping head sits atop massive shoulders and a barrel-like chest.

Teh-lma: "These little fellows are only four to five feet tall," claimed Gordon Nicholson. "They're covered with a kinky red hair and they eat frogs, fish and wild vegetables. They are not dangerous and the villagers are

actually quite fond of them. Naturally, these might easily be some form of the monkey or ape family."

Kung-Lu: This is also known in the mountains as the *tok*, *gin-sung* or *dsu-teh*. A translation of these terms means "the great hulking thing." The Kung-lu is seldom seen outside the mountains of Tibet. They are absolute giants, according to descriptions from eye witnesses, with black, shaggy hair. They weigh several hundred pounds and are said to be about ten feet tall. "He is not the type of fellow you want to meet on a dark night," remarked Nicholson.

THE ENIGMATIC YETI OF THE HIMALAYAS

On Mount Everest, an unending parade of white explorers, adventurers and alpine-capped mountaineers launched their assault against the world's most challenging mountain. The newspaper anointed each new expedition with presumed success as the mountaineers lagged in their conquest of Asia's loftiest peak. The monasteries of Tibet became a way station on the road to success. Remote jungle towns and isolated villages were disturbed as armies of struggling Sherpa porters lugged supplies to the base camps.

No other mountain in history offered such rewards, or greater dangers, to the men who capped her summit with their country's flag. And, as the climbers trudged back down the slopes in defeat, an enigmatic figure rushed into the headlines. The abominable snowman, the man-beast, the *Kung-lu*, *Yeti*, was a fascinating figure for a world grown tired of war and bloodshed. Ultimately, the *Yeti* would prove to be a greater challenge than any mountain.

In 1887, British Major Lawrence Waddell had saved up

his leave and was roaming around the Himalayan mountains, hunting for tiger and generally enjoying the time away from his duties as a medical officer in the army. "... I was in Sikkim, during some extremely poor weather, when I came upon the most extraordinary set of footprints," Major Waddell reported. "They were made by some creature walking erect on two feet like a giant barefooted man. The tracks continued over the snow for miles, always taking the path of least resistance."

In *Among The Himalayans*, which was later published in England, the Major wondered "what sort of animal" was able to cross the terrible terrain with such evident ease. Then, in 1905, botanist H. J. Elwes was gathering vegetation in the Himalayas when he noticed a strange, hairy form running across a ridge below him. In 1921, Colonel Howard-Bury's expedition found the first *Yeti* type tracks in the snow and the abominable snowman became "hot copy" to the world's newspaper editors.

Actually, Oriental history is brimming with tales of howling hordes of monsters who ravaged towns, kidnapped women and plagued Asian mankind. Many of the wrinkled monks in the Tibetan monasteries talked knowingly of the "wild man things" that inhabited the mountains around their lands.

In 1922, General C. G. Bruce headed up the Second Everest Expedition. He quartered his hearty mountaineers at a monastery at Rongbuk, Tibet, and spent several fascinating afternoons with the venerable Head Lama.

"Some of our chaps claim to have seen some sort of animal that walks upright," General Bruce said, during tea one evening.

"Ah yes! That is the *Yeti*," smiled the bearded Lama.

"You mean you know of these creatures?"

"Of course. My monks often go to a valley near here

and watch them frolic," the Lama said. "I can have someone take you there tomorrow."

Incredible as it may appear, General Bruce did not follow up on the report. Many men shared his possibly skeptical views on the ape-man of the Himalayas. Although it was a complex bit of folklore, they figured, it was nothing more than fanciful flights of imagination. The General led his expedition out of the monastery, up the mountain and back down in defeat.

Another expedition poured into the mountains in 1923 and Major Alan Cameron pleased newspaper readers by reporting a definite sighting of a *Yeti*. "At least, we saw some sort of furry man-like creature in the slopes above his party," reported one of the climbers.

The next reports came from Explorer F. S. Smythe, who found strange tracks near Garwhal, India in the mid-1930s. Dozens of other mountaineers and explorers had been reporting these usual man-like footprints for quite some time. "The only sighting was made by A. N. Tombazi, a member of the 1925 Royal Geographic Society expedition," reported a London newspaper. "He was head of a photographic group in Sikkim and saw a man-like creature grubbing for roots near the Zemu Gap, at the bottom of Mt. Kubu. The group later approached this spot and made casts of the human-like prints found there."

The Zemu Gap also showed up in news reports in 1948 when two Norwegian uranium prospectors claimed they were attacked by a pair of frightening *Yetis* near that point. "I believe they encountered something but I'm not exactly certain what it would be," an official reported.

In the nineteen-thirties, mountaineer Eric Shipton reported finding several odd tracks in the snow around Everest during his 1936 expedition. The Rongbuk Monastery leaped back into the news again in 1938. The monks

claimed a *Yeti* had destroyed a sacred rock monument on a mountain overlooking their monastery.

The First American Karakoram Expedition sailed to Asia in 1938. "We got back into the remote areas and we were attacked by all sorts of unknown things," said a member of the expedition. "It made one pause and consider the stories of ABSMs. There were strange shouts about the camp at night, neither human nor animal. Very difficult to describe, really. On numerous occasions, something threw or rolled stones down the mountains at our party. There were many strange occurrences out there."

World War II saw the U. S. pilots fly their missions over "the hump," ferrying supplies from India to China. *Yeti*-hunting became a pastime that few men could enjoy as the world fought another war. There were several sightings during the late forties; both the ABSM and a plethora of footprints were reported.

In the nineteen fifties, the snowman season was launched when a creature ventured out of the forest and loitered around the wall outside of Tibet's Thyangboche monastery. Reportedly, the monks threw scraps of food and other delicacies to the creature and it became something of a nuisance. "Finally, the Head Lama became annoyed by the begging beast and ordered it driven back into the forest," a newsman recalled. "The monks pounded on their cymbals, beat their gongs, blew on a few sacred horns and the creature was last seen running away into the woods at a rapid gait."

Sightings became more frequent. A group of Sherpas reported they watched a *Yeti* for several hours. Several expeditions reported tracks. Eric Shipton photographed footprints in the snow on Mt. Everest. A Tibetan lama claimed he met an ABSM face-to-face on a mountain path in Assam and, in 1954, the *London Daily Mail*

launched the world's first expedition to capture a snowman. The *Daily Mail* group found tracks but the living prize eluded capture. Tom Slick's Expeditions sighted an ABSM, but returned only with samples of hair and casts of footprints.

In the past few years there has been very little activity along the Himalayas. First, the mountain was conquered by Sir Edmund Hillary and the expeditions stopped. In addition, Sir Edmund reported the "*Yeti Scalps*" on display in several Tibetan monasteries were nothing more than goat skins. He also declared that many of the snowmen-type tracks were the enlarged prints of bears, foxes and other animals. He said these prints would be melted to an enormous size by the sun.

The mysterious saga of the abominable snowmen of the Himalayas won't be ended for many years. Based on reports from throughout the world, it appears a man-beast does live in the mountains. The final chapter will be written in the future.

THE SANDMAN OF THE DESERT

Only a few weeks before, Harold Lancaster had been hunting treasure in the jungles of Central America. He had returned to his home in Los Angeles in July, 1968, and was now seeking a legendary lost mine in the Borrego sink, east of the tiny settlement of Borrego Springs, California.

"I was camped up on a mesa one morning when I noticed a figure moving toward me," Lancaster reported. "I thought it was another prospector, picked up my binoculars and received the shock of my life. It was an honest, living ape-man. A real giant."

Lancaster had previously searched for the giant forest creature that lurked in the woods of Tuolumne county, California. "Another guy and I went up there, looked for a while, talked to some people and decided it was a hoax," Lancaster said. "I'm a pretty skeptical person. I had to see one of these things to believe them."

As the abominable sandman came closer to his camp, Lancaster's weathered face furrowed into a worried

frown. "He was big. I had a .22 pistol on my hip but it would have been like shooting at a gorilla with a pea shooter. I fired a couple of rounds into the air, hoping this would frighten him away," he said.

"Buddy, when those blasts reached him, that creature jumped a good three feet in the air. He turned, looked at me and then ran off in the other direction," Lancaster chuckled. "I never seen him again."

An enthusiastic treasure hunter should recognize the value of such a specimen—dead or alive. Why didn't Lancaster shoot the creature?

"I was afraid," he admitted. "He must have weighed a good 1000 pounds. You'd better drop them with the first bullet or you won't get another chance. Besides, I believe they should be protected because they're a primitive form of humans. I am convinced it would be murder to kill one. They should be studied."

THE ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN WHO CAME TO DINNER

I have written several articles on America's home-grown monsters for national magazines and numerous readers have written to tell of their personal encounters with these eerie beasts. Many of these sightings go back into the last century. Others are more recent.

"It happened while we were on a canoe trip into the chain of lakes in the Superior-Quantic National forests," wrote Mrs. J. H. Allen of Dallas, Texas. "This is a beautiful area on the Minnesota-Canadian borders. My husband and I passed through the border crossing station on Ottawa Island and then paddled back into the wilderness."

"I was preparing our noon lunch and my husband was fishing a few yards down the beach," she continued. "I heard a noise in the bush and turned around, expecting my husband. Let me tell you, I almost died of a heart attack . . ."

Mrs. Allen described a hairy ABSM with the traditional characteristics of the species. "He growled. I screamed. He made a gurgling sound. I screamed again,"

wrote Mrs. Allen. "By then, my husband was running up the beach. He arrived in time to see the thing make a rather thorough inspection of our campsite."

The nervous couple watched from a distance as the male creature rummaged through their knapsacks, inspected their bedrolls and dug into their provisions. "He smelled, tasted and then gobbled down a hunk of cheese," Mrs. Allen related. "He nibbled at a cracker and then put the remainder of the box under his arm. I was struck by his hands. They were not like an animal's paw. These were more human in appearance."

The hairy intruder then spied a string of fish which Mr. Allen had caught that morning. "He didn't understand they were on a chain," she related. "He jerked them off the holder, one by one, and walked back into the woods."

The frightened couple quickly tossed their belongings in their canoe and paddled furiously away from the area. "We calmed down after awhile and continued our vacation," she continued. "But from that day, we never entered the woods without a pistol on our side. I think someone should find out about these things. Somebody could get killed."

THE SWAMP SNOWMEN OF THE MIDWEST

In recent years, the midwestern United States has been deluged by a blizzard of reports of unusual creatures prowling in the swamps and woodlands. In December, 1968, a group of 12 hunters were moving through a swamp near Fremont, Wisconsin when several members of the party sighted what they later described as "an unknown animal."

The men were no more than 200 yards from the beast. It rose to a total height of at least seven feet, waved its arms as if angry and glared at the hunters.

Wisconsin stage game wardens investigated the report. "I think their description might be the result of an over-active imagination," declared one conservation officer.

Nevertheless, there have been similar reports of 'ape-men' lurking in the swamps and woodlands of rural Wisconsin. The northern portion of the state is still relatively isolated. Hunters and farmers are the most frequent sighters.

The descriptions furnished by eyewitnesses fall into the standard patterns. But Wisconsin law enforcement

officers are not amused. "Mister, if there are a tribe of apemen roaming around in the swamps, why doesn't someone shoot one and drag the carcass into town?" asked an indignant state police official.

Despite skepticism from the authorities, there is convincing evidence that Canada's *Sasquatch* may have moved South in their search for food and warm weather. There is a long marshland that extends down out of Canada and into the upper Mississippi valley. Around these marshlands are some of the most productive farms in the world.

"The entire region is becoming a giant cafeteria for animals," the experts state. "Farming is mechanized but small piles of grain are left in the fields." The vegetarian *Sasquatch* would find it very easy to exist under these conditions.

Believers in abominable snowmen point out that the wild game count has mushroomed in the past few years in the midwest. "This increased game would also make the midwest more attractive for a group of sub-humans," reported Gordon Nicholson, the relentless Canadian *Sasquatch* hunter.

RUSSIA'S SEARCH FOR THE SHAGGY ALAMASTI

Dr. Jeanne-Marie-Therese Koffman, a Russian physician and one of the world's experts on ABSMs, delivered her report on abominable snowmen behind the iron curtain in 1967 to the Congress of the Russian Geological Society. Nicknamed "the abominable Koffman" by her colleagues, the Russian scientist told of her five-year search for evidence on the *Agachikishi*, *Kaptar*, *Lahkir*, *meshadam*, *tkys-katsi* and the *alamasti*. "These are the various names which each province of the Soviet Union has for the same mysterious giants," reported Dr. Koffman.

"I have collected eyewitness reports from 219 people who have seen these creatures," reported Dr. Koffman. "My search was centered in the Caucasus mountains, where there is considerable activity."

Even the most skillful Communist propaganda artist would be unable to convince the rural Russians that snowmen do not exist. "A variety of reports come in from the remote regions each year," another Russian scientist declared. "There are remarkable similarities in the descriptions. The thing is apparently covered with a thick, shaggy hair and has wide, round shoulders. The

head is said to be relatively small for its size and many people claim the skull is egg-shaped.

"The wide, flat nose is over an out-thrust jaw and their teeth are said to be remarkably large," he continued. "The reports indicate these creatures amble slowly, but are capable of rapid speed when it is needed. People in the remote areas of the Caucasus mountains say the beasts frequently approach their farms and they hear loud shouts and whistles. People who have been very close to them claim there is a babbling, mumbling form of language. They mumble to each other, they claim, in a variety of tones."

The Communist dogma on abominable snowmen changed in 1958 after Dr. Alexander G. Pronin reported he had watched a snowman in the Baliand-Kiik valley in the Pamir mountains early that year. Dr. Pronin was the senior scientist with the Geographical Institute at Leningrad and his academic and scientific credits lent credence to his report.

"I saw the creature by pure chance," Dr. Pronin said. "We had been meandering in the wilder regions of the mountains for several days, on a hydrological study of the area for the International Geophysical Year. The forest is very thick there and the snow was frosted and crusted over. I was near the top of a 1500 foot cliff when I noticed this remarkable creature."

"At first, I thought it was a bear but it suddenly walked out of its cave like a man-creature," Dr. Pronin declared. "It walked erect for perhaps 200 yards and then disappeared behind a cliff edge."

Dr. Pronin watched the *galubyavanna*, as ABSMs are called in that area, for more than ten minutes and returned a few days later to observe the creature. "I saw it more clearly on the second trip," said Dr. Pronin. "It was a man-like creature which walked on two feet in a

slightly stooped fashion. It wore no clothing and was covering with reddish-grey hair. It had long arms."

Despite his credentials, Dr. Pronin's statement was blasted by the Communist party newspaper, *Komsomolskaya Pravda*: "We do not believe his statement and think a true scientist would not report on a discovery until it has been verified many times," snapped the government writers.

Following Dr. Pronin's report, a prominent Chinese government movie cameraman said he was filming in the Pamir mountains in 1954. "Three associates and I saw two snowmen descend a rocky slope at an altitude of 20,000 feet," he reported. "They were a half mile in front of our party so we were unable to obtain usable photographs."

Snowmen popped up again in Russia when Prof. Boris Porshnev declared in July, 1958, that "they are a Neanderthal-type man creature and the sole survivors of their species." He reported their existence in the rugged desert regions of central Mongolia. "They might possibly represent some primitive race of apemen that was common in all of Asia but were pushed back into the remote areas for survival," he said.

Since that time, Prof. Porshnev has examined more than two thousand eyewitness accounts of ABSMs. It is reported that Prof. Porshnev was responsible for establishing eighty ten-member "Alamasti Hunt Teams" which are prepared to cover the million-square mile area of Caucasus mountains this coming winter. "When the snow falls, they will launch the greatest effort in history to capture one of these forest giants," a colleague stated.

In July, 1957, Prof. V. K. Leontiev was carefully tracking the spoor of a leopard through the Gagan Sanctuary and, after a tiring day, prepared to strike camp. As the professor was setting up his tent poles, he was startled by a sharp, loud cry in the bushes.

"I immediately concluded that this was a yell that no bird or animal in that area could or would make," the professor said. A professional conservationist, he is known throughout the world for his work to save wildlife. "I was also convinced that such a sound could not have been made by a human."

"The next evening as I was making my campfire I noticed a dark movement on the snowfield," Prof. Leontiev continued. "The creature was about 200 yards away and moving away from me. I realized that it was the legendary *kaptar*, walking erect. It had a seven-foot, hairy body."

"Such a creature would be a scientific prize so I leveled my rifle and pulled the trigger," Prof. Leontiev continued. "The creature was out of range and, at the sound of the gun, the *kaptar* raced to the shelter of high ground."

Prof. Leontiev reported he had observed the creature for about seven minutes. "I would compare the wild creature to an extremely tall, wide-shouldered individual with an enormous build," he said. "He had a long growth of beard on his face, which was elongated and animal-like. His nude body was thoroughly covered by long hair. He was actually quite human-like in appearance."

Dr. Koffman and her "monster-hunting" colleagues behind the Iron Curtain frequently mention the *alamasti* incident which occurred near Buinakak in 1941. Dr. V. S. Karapetyan, a lieutenant-colonel in the Soviet Army medical corps, was in charge of medical service to an infantry group. He was listening to a news broadcast on the Soviet-German battles in World War II when a harsh knock on his door interrupted his evening reports.

"Sir! The natives have insisted that you be summoned to provide attention to an animal they have captured," a soldier said, saluting.

Dr. Karapetyan looked longingly at his comfortable quarters. "I'm a doctor, not a veterinarian," he replied.

The soldier hesitated. "They know that, sir! They say this creature is half man-half animal and they want your opinion."

"That sounds like an intriguing combination," laughed the doctor. "Perhaps someone has managed to capture one of Hitler's generals."

Dr. Karapetyan was led to an outlying village. His patient was kept in an unheated shed. "We tried to keep him in the house but he sweats very profusely," said a village elder. "The stink is also bad. It will be months before we get the stench from his room."

The Soviet Army doctor peered into the cage. The creature was human-like in appearance, naked, and covered with a long reddish-brown hair. The Russian Information Service released Dr. Karapetyan's report several years later and it stated: "The man stood absolutely straight with his arms dangling, and his height was well above average . . . he was a male . . . and he stood before me like a giant . . . he thrust his chest forward. His fingers were long, thick and very strong in appearance . . . I always look at a patient's eyes, but his eyes told me nothing. They were the dull and empty pupils of an animal. He seemed to me like an animal. Nothing more."

"What is he? Man or beast?" questioned a leader of the village.

"He's certainly not a spy of any kind," the doctor said. "He's some sort of wild creature. I'll be around tomorrow to take another look at this fellow!"

Dr. Karapetyan examined the creature thoroughly and forwarded a complete report to his commanding officer in Moscow. However, World War II was the prime concern of the Russian government. The Soviet Union was fighting for life against Hitler's mighty Nazi armies. Apparently Dr. Karapetyan's report was filled away in the turmoil, or even destroyed. Dr. Karapetyan's unit left for the front lines. No one has ever discovered the ultimate fate of the ABSM creature caged in the tiny village.

Dr. Jeanne-Marie-Therese Koffman might well be a match for the most menacing of hulking ABSMs. "The abominable Koffman" is a Frenchwoman and surgeon who performed surgery in front line tents, often by candlelight, during World War II. She also became a fearless parachute instructress and jumped with the Russian Alpine Commandos in the Caucasus campaign. After the war, she restlessly turned her high spirits to racing and is recognized as an expert motorcycle and race car driver. She is also an expert marksman with both the rifle and pistol; and the envy of the Communist world.

One of Dr. Koffman's most interesting case histories was published in *Naukai Religiva* magazine and then republished in English by *Sputnik*, Russia's English language magazine. The report was provided by a man called "Didanov," who was noted in his village for being an honest, respectable citizen.

Following a long journey away from his village, Didanov was returning by a route that led through the high pastures in the mountains. One evening he was invited to share supper with a group of shepherds and spend the night in their tent. Didanov's sleep was disturbed several times during the night by a snoring shepherd, who slept beside the traveller.

Didanov was trying to return to sleep when he saw a large, hairy hand part the flaps of the shepherd's tent. Seconds later, a hulking hairy animal entered the enclosure. The beast walked erect like a human, peered curiously at the sleeping men and then left the tent.

Didanov shook the sleeping shepherd. He described the intruder. "What was that thing?" he asked, alarmed. "Do you have guns?"

The shepherd rubbed the sleep from his eyes. "Pay no attention to him. He's just one of the *alamasti*. If you stay around here long you will see many of them. They will not harm you."

The shepherd rolled over and promptly went back to sleep. Didanov knew he would not sleep again that night. He lay terrified as he heard the *alamasti* moving around in the tents of the other shepherds.

Didanov's vigil was interrupted when the tent flaps parted and the *alamasti* entered the tent again. "I screwed up my eyes, feigning sleep, but continued to watch even though I was scared stiff," Didanov reported. "After a wary look at us, the thing squatted beside the pots of food. Lifting the lids, it began to eat, gulping the food and glancing our way to see if we were asleep. Then it stood up, silently replaced the lids on the pots, and walked to a peg on one of the walls. Removing a bridle from the peg it inspected it carefully, returned it to its place and slipped out of the tent."

There are many legends in Russia concerning the wild, hairy men of the mountains. Giant evil spirits called *Shaitana* are claimed to inhabit the remote plateaus of the Caucasus mountains, presumably under punishment by Allah because they tried to climb into heaven. The peasants make a quick, rapid retreat when they encounter such "spirits." Just as the tribesmen in Tibet consider the *Yeti* to be a sign of misfortune, so do the Russians believe that the *Shaitana* is a warning of dire futures. The Caucasus mountains are also the site of Russia's frightening fables concerning werewolves and beast-like monsters.

The Gilyaks, a Siberian tribe of aborigines, maintain to this day that the unexplored forests of Siberia are inhabited by a race of animals that are man-like, yet have the habits of animals. "There are families of them living in the forests and they are very dangerous," claim the Gilyaks.

What do the Siberian men-beasts want?

"The secret of fire," the Gilyaks reply. "Despite their fur and hair, they are always cold."

MESOPOTAMIA'S MAD MONSTER INVASION

The face of terror in ancient Iraq was nervous guards pacing atop the village walls, frightened families huddled in their dark huts and bleary-eyed men nervously fingering the sharpened edges of their swords. Outside the village, a weird, howling roar erupted as hordes of cannibalistic creatures stormed the village gates.

A mother's scream erupted in the desperate stillness. "My baby! My baby. It has my little one!" A dark, devilish shape loomed out of the darkness. The squalling infant was grasped in the beast's powerful, hairy arms. Seconds later, the creature climbed a ladder and leaped over the village walls. The baby's sobs could be heard clearly by the guards. Then, there was a loud howl, followed by a small cry and silence.

Denys of Tell-Mahre, a leader of the Syrian Jacobites, authored *The Chronicon* in the eighth century. An intriguing portion of the old manuscript scroll contains a frightening account of an ABSM-like creature who invaded Mesopotamia and ravaged the villages. His account reads:

"A.D. 774: Before the reign of Emperor Leo IV, there raged a plague that was followed by the appearance of frightening and terrifying animals who feared nothing and no one.

"A little like wolves they were, but their faces were small and long and they had large ears. The skin on their spines resembled that of a pig . . ."

"These enigmatic animals committed great crimes on the people in the Abdin Rock region, near Hoh. They devoured more than a hundred people in some villages and from twenty, forty to fifty in others . . . they were fearless of man. If a man should pursue them, in no ways did the monsters become scared and flee. Instead, they turned on their pursuers. If a man loosed his weapon on a monster, it leaped on the man and tore him to bits."

"These monsters broke into houses and yards, seized and kidnapped children and no one dared to offer any kind of resistance. They climbed in the night onto terraces, stole children from their beds and went off without opposition. When they appeared, even dogs were too frightened to bark.

". . . the country suffered a terrible experience, worse than it had ever known. Men were frightened to move about. Cattle vanished from the fields . . . consumed by these dreaded monsters. Indeed, when one of these monsters attacked a herd of goats, or a flock of sheep, they took away several animals at a time . . .

". . . These monsters passed from the land and went into Arxanene (southern Armenia) and they ravaged the villages there . . ."

The manuscript then lists several villages and areas invaded by the frightening horde of marauding monsters. The narration is ended abruptly. Several pages are missing from the ancient scroll. Another account of this incredible event indicates the monsters appeared suspiciously like our modern descriptions of hairy ABSMs.

Perhaps a famine, or some other disaster, compelled bands of these monsters to leave the seclusion of their forests and invade villages for survival. There are many accounts from ancient times of dark, hairy creatures attacking solitary travellers or entire villages. Our forefathers may have had a very frightening reason for living in villages.

SHE WAS KIDNAPPED FOR A SNOWMAN'S BRIDE

Seraphine Long, a pretty 17-year-old Indian maiden, knew it was wrong to walk alone into the deep forest. Both her parents and the tribal chieftain had forbidden this activity from the very afternoon when the tribe of Indians camped on the edge of Harrison Lake, in British Columbia, Canada. Seraphine had heard stories about the "wild things of the forest." She had never seen one of the creatures so it was probably another of those silly stories told by grown-ups to frighten young people.

Then, without warning, Seraphine was seized by a giant creature which dropped down from a tree. A hairy hand clamped over her mouth and stifled her screams. Another hand came up and attempted to smear tree gum over her eyes for a blindfold.

Kicking and protesting, Seraphine was carried to the edge of a river. Without further ado, the hairy forest creature leaped into the stream and swam across the river.

"He took her up into the mountains to a cave where

his family lived," recalled an elderly resident of the area. "She was kidnapped to be the ape-man's bride. I understand she was treated very well. She was not harmed physically in any way."

Nevertheless, Seraphine became homesick for her family and friends. She was also pregnant. "She said later that her 'husband' led her back through the wilderness to the Indian village. She said there were tears in his eyes when she left him standing there in the forest," the old timer said.

"She returned to the Indian camp and the snowman's child was still-born," he continued. "Seraphine died when she was 83 years old, during the early nineteen forties. So the experience must not have harmed her in any way."

John Burns, then publisher of the *Agassiz-Harrison Advance* weekly newspaper in British Columbia, and an energetic ABSM hunter, published the story a few years ago.

THE HAIRY THING THAT CAME TO CALL

On the evening of September 11, 1968, a retired businessman pulled his pick-up camper off a highway near Billings, Montana, and prepared to sleep off his bone-weary travel fatigue. 68-year-old Harold Nelson, of suburban Los Angeles, was munching on beans and crackers when an eerie noise disturbed the solitude of his lonely camp ground.

"I won't let myself get spooked so I dismissed the incident," said Nelson. "A few minutes later, I picked up my flashlight, opened the back door of the camper and found myself frozen with terror. I was staring directly into the face of a snowman, a *Yeti*, or whatever you choose to call those things."

Despite his fear, Nelson obtained a spine-chilling description of the beast. "He was large, and stood erect like a man. The face was strange, like an ape and a man mixed together. The head was slightly pointed; so were his ears. His entire body was covered with reddish-brown hair. There were a few white spots of hair along the edges of

his shoulders. He must have weighed 600 or 800 pounds. I was stunned when it looked toward me, making a funny whistling sound."

Harold Nelson screamed. He grabbed a small pistol and glared back at his uninvited guest. "I expected the beast to come tearing into the camper," Nelson said. "It did move forward for a moment, looked around and then ambled off into the darkness."

The frightened camper watched the ape-like monster cross a small stream and disappear into a grove of trees. "I was really shaking," Nelson continued. "I knew a .22 bullet would never stop him. I decided he might not be running away. Maybe he was going to get a few of his friends. I set a new speed record in getting my rig moving."

Nelson drove for several miles and then pulled into an all-night gas station. "The attendant said several other motorists had reported seeing something like this," the elderly camper said. "He said there was no use reporting it. The police would claim it was a bear. Needless to say, I don't camp along a deserted stretch of road anymore."

Harold Nelson read a magazine article I had written for a national magazine. He telephoned me and reported the incident. Later, he furnished a sworn statement telling of the experience, mentioning his belief that the beast which peered into his camper was some unknown type of man-creature. "I've always been a hard-headed businessman," Nelson stated. "This thing convinced me that science and the government don't know everything about what is happening in the world."

Nelson, like other eyewitnesses, considers himself a "100% true believer" in abominable snowmen.

HE LIVED WITH CANADA'S SASQUATCH MONSTERS

During her official visit to Canada a few years ago, Queen Elizabeth was captivated by the story of a Canadian prospector who claimed to have been kidnapped by a giant, hairy creature. Albert Ostman, then retired, claimed he was abducted in 1924 while he was searching for a lost gold mine in the Toba Inlet region, along the Powell river in British Columbia.

Ostman's seemingly incredible adventure started on his third night in the woods. The sleeping prospector was suddenly jerked to wakefulness when a powerful, hairy giant attacked him from the darkness. Ostman was literally stuffed into a large bag of some sort, which the beast tossed over its shoulder. The frightened prospector was carried through the dark forest to the cave home of the *Sasquatch*. He was then dumped out before a family of cave-dwelling sub-humans.

The family was composed of a mother, father, a young male and a younger female. "The old female didn't seem too happy with my capture and she made some rude noises at the big fellow," Ostman told newsmen. Incredi-

ble as it may seem, Ostman reported a definite form of language spoken within the family unit. "It sounded like gibberish," he said.

The strange family scoured the terrain around their cave for edible roots, wild nuts, berries and vegetables. "They had no kind of fire, but they had some degree of sleeping comfort with a woven mattress," Ostman related.

Ostman's description of the older male was very precise. The creature was approximately eight feet tall, with long arms that plunged down from his massive shoulders. There was a broad, barrel chest. He stated the female weighed at least six hundred pounds, with huge breasts and broad hips. All of their bodies were covered with a thick, short hair except for the palms of their hands and the bottoms of their feet.

After several days in captivity, Ostman reluctantly opened his last container of snuff. The old male snatched the snuff box from his hands, stuffing the entire contents into his mouth. Seconds later, the "hot snuff" took hold. The monster's alarmed cries brought the other members of the family running in his aid. During the confusion, Ostman reported he ran from the cave, followed a river and came to a logging camp at the edge of the forest.

Sasquatch hunters and newspaper reporters have theorized that Ostman was kidnapped to be a mate for the young female in the family. Ostman seldom discussed the young *Sasquatch* female.

"Perhaps the old man wanted to amuse his family with a pet and decided the unlucky prospector was a good selection," commented Gordon Nicholson, the Canadian *Sasquatch* authority.

THE ALARMING APE-WOMAN OF PATANG

In a previous book, *Strange Women of the Occult* (Popular Library, 60¢) I told the astonishing story of the female *Yeti* who was captured and exhibited in 1913 by a band of Chinese mountaineers.

The Chinese expedition was one of the first organized groups of mountain climbers to penetrate deep into the isolated wilderness of the inner Himalayan mountains. They were awed by the majestic beauty of this unmapped region and intrigued by native stories about the *Yeti*, a man-like beast that allegedly lived in the remote crags of the mountains. These animal-men were said to live on frogs, weeds and wild vegetables. When the winters were severe, these creatures sometimes kidnapped a sheep, a goat, or a child, to supplement their diet. "They are very dangerous," the natives claimed.

Through some means not recorded, the mountaineers captured a female *Yeti* and carted the creature to Patang, Sinkiang province, for exhibition. Dr. Gordon Mueller happened to see the creature and was overwhelmed by her appearance.

"She was eight feet tall, with pendulant breasts and an ape-human face," declared Dr. Gordon. "Her body was covered with a dark, reddish hair except for the bottoms of her feet and her palms. The hair along her skull was several inches long; that on her body varied in length but usually measured no more than an inch. She was more human than ape."

"I wired several universities and urged their professors to grab the first boat out," Dr. Mueller recorded. "They must have thought I had drunk too much rice wine. They never replied."

Dr. Mueller returned to Europe. Later, when he came back to Patang, he discovered the ape woman had been infected with a disease, possibly influenza, and had died.

"I was unable to locate her grave," he said. "Possibly, she was cut up and boiled down into medicine. Those chaps in the Orient still believe that an ABSM has tremendous healing powers. I've heard that a snowman's body can be exchanged for an equal amount of gold. The medicine men even have agents in the mountains who encourage the natives to capture or kill *Yetis*."

THE "THING" THAT ATTACKED A CAR

The news services in November, 1958 carried an unusual report from Riverside, California, of a monster that attacked a car. The report read:

RIVERSIDE, NOV. 9 (UP)—A funny thing happened to Charlie Wetzal on the way home last night.

A monster jumped out at him. That's what he told authorities who planned to continue an investigation of the incredible story today.

Wetzal, 24, a resident of nearby Bloomington, reported soberly that he was driving on a street near Riverside when a frightening creature jumped in front of his car.

"It had a round, scare-crowish head," he said, "like something out of Halloween.

"It wasn't human. It had longer arms than anything I'd ever seen. When it saw me in the car it reached all the way back to the windshield and began clawing at me.

"It didn't have any ears. The face was all round. The

eyes were shining like something fluorescent and it had a protuberant mouth. It was scaly, like leaves."

Wetzel said he became terrified when the creature reached over the hood of his car and began clawing at the windshield. He said he reached for a .22 pistol he had in the car.

"I held that pistol and stomped on the gas," he said. "The thing fell back from the car and it gurgled.

"The noise it made didn't sound human. I think I hit it. I heard something hit the pan under the car."

Sheriff's officers said Wetzel pointed at some thin, sweeping marks he said the creature made on his windshield. They went to the scene of the claimed apparition but said they could find nothing to prove or disprove Wetzel's story.

The scene is at a point where North Main Street dips and crosses the Santa Ana River bed, which is usually almost dry. Wetzel said he told the story to his wife and she induced him to phone authorities.

"I kept saying no one would believe a story like this," he said.

Sheriff's Sgt. E. R. Holmes said he thought perhaps a large vulture might have flopped on the hood of Wetzel's car—"sometimes cars hit them when they're in the road eating rabbits that cars have killed," he said.

Holmes searched the area today. "But," he said, "I didn't even find a feather."

ENIGMA OF SUMATRA'S APE-GIRL

In the summer of 1958 it was reported by Reuter's News Service that a strange female beast, half human, half ape, had been captured by the villagers in a remote part of Sumatra. Investigation revealed the creature was held in captivity for several weeks in the village of Pabamulih and was known locally as a '*sindai*'.

"We are holding her for the big reward," claimed a spokesman for the villagers. "The government pays a big bounty for something of this nature."

Unknown to the villagers at that time, the reward had been offered by the Dutch government when they ruled. The new Sumatran government disclaimed any knowledge of a bounty for the beast.

"We're not about to pay good money to some backward natives, who will then produce a female chimp," declared a government bureaucrat.

When they heard that the bounty would not be paid, the villagers released the creature and she fled into the jungle. Chimp or ABSM? We will never know.

It has always been extremely difficult to catch even a glimpse of these elusive ABSMs. Perhaps, in this incident, an indifferent government bureaucrat allowed a priceless specimen to slip away from science.

OTHER ANIMALS THAT DIDN'T EXIST

It was the beginning of what any research scientist would call a "grand summer." Several British and American professors and their assistants met in Africa in 1897 to catalogue some of the dark continent's most unusual animals.

"What about this white rhinoceros that the natives are always talking about?" asked an enthusiastic assistant. "Are we going to track it down?"

A British professor smiled at his colleagues. "We'll have to caution these young fellows," he laughed. "That tale has been bouncing around here for years. I think the natives and white hunters are demented. The white rhino is a silly superstition."

Apparently someone neglected to tell the gigantic white rhinoceros that he was a myth. He was brought into civilization in 1900 and examined by groups of impressed and bewildered scientists. The white rhino is now recognized as the second largest land animal on earth, surpassed in size only by the African elephant. Yet, this

huge creature remained unknown until the start of this century.

In this age of instant communication, moon rockets and jet airliners, we hate to admit that the world is actually a very large place. At the time when the white rhino was a "harmless superstition," scientists were also scoffing at reports of a huge, meat-eating bear that was said to prowl the boondocks of Mongolia. A specimen was finally killed and the bear was declared bona fide in 1898.

Tarzan to the contrary, the real king of the apes is the mountain gorilla. These creatures were not catalogued until 1901. The largest lizards on earth are the dragons of Komodo Island. They were found by zoologists in 1912. "I just don't understand how these lizards could have remained unknown all of these years," commented the British zoologist who catalogued them.

The Pi Tong Luang, a tribe of primitive people, walked out of the jungles of Thailand and astonished the world in 1932. "There were thousands of these tribesmen in the jungle and we had never heard of them," declared a British official.

Perhaps, like these animals and people, the abominable snowman has also eluded civilization.

DEMONS IN THE THUNDEROUS NIGHT

The scribes of ancient England often included accounts of bloodthirsty demons, marauding night monsters and other unusual creatures in their manuscripts. Many of these frightening monsters may have been some species of ABSMs. One of the most fascinating incidents was recorded by Abbot Ralph of Coggeshall Abby, in Essex, England. The Abbot's *Chronicle* tells of an unusual beast that was struck by lightning during a raging thunderstorm on St. John the Baptist's night in 1205:

"... A certain strange monster was hit by lightning in Maidstone (Kent). This monster had the head of a strange being, the belly of a human and other monstrous members and limbs ... its black corpse was scorched and a terrible stench came from it and very few were able to go near," he wrote.

Abbot Ralph also reported that monstrous "large, pointed feet" were discovered after another thunderstorm on the night of July 29, 1205. "... the prints were of a kind never seen before and many claimed they were the tracks of giant demons," he declared.

Fascinating insight into the folklore of ancient England is provided by Ralph Holinshed's *Chronicle*. He told of the abrupt ending to an outdoor celebration after the second wedding of King Alexander of Scotland.

The incident occurred during the thirty-first year of the king's reign and "... as the King was leading his bride in a dance, they were followed by a large number of lords and ladies. There appeared before them ... a giant creature resembling death, all naked, nothing but flesh and bones, very dreadful to behold ..."

Holinshed recorded that: "... the King and his party were sore astonished ..." which is possibly a classic understatement. "... They were put in such fear that they quickly ended their dance and ..." returned to the castle.

It was a tradition in medieval times for the village elders to ring the church holy bells to drive away the "devil's demons." The tradition of ringing bells has continued in modern Tibet, where monks claim the uproar keeps ABSMs at a safe distance. Perhaps, our forefathers were surrounded by vast tribes of ABSMs and noise was their weapon against these real-life "deomons."

THE CREATURE WHO WAVED "HELLO!"

The warm summer months seem to be "snowman season" in many parts of the United States and Canada. ABSMs apparently leave their secluded forest homes and creep close to civilization to raid lush gardens and ripening orchards. "These creatures have to forage for their food," said Gordon Nicholson, a Canadian authority. "You can imagine what a virtual paradise a garden or truck farm would be for them. It would be like turning a starving human loose in a supermarket."

The provincial police in Canada received a blizzard of reports on "monster" activity in the summer of 1965. A "monster" was sighted near Smithville, Ontario, on several occasions and witnesses described the beast as "five to six hundred pounds and seven to eight feet tall." They said it was "half man, half animal with broad shoulders, a small head and long, ape-like arms."

"I was turning off the highway toward Smithville when this thing suddenly appeared in front of me," a shaken truck driver informed provincial police. He de-

scribed the creature, then added: "You can also put down that I don't drink."

An anonymous motorist telephoned the police that same evening to report his strange experience. "We were driving down the highway when this thing that looked like a man, or gorilla, was walking along the edge of the road," the caller blurted. "I thought someone was going to a masquerade party. I braked down and backed up and yelled at it. One of the boys in the car started screaming we should get out of there. The creature looked at us and then raised one of those long arms, as if in greeting, and started toward the car. We got out of there."

The police investigated both reports and found nothing.

THE HORROR ON THE HIGHWAY

"It looked like some macabre monster from an old movie," declared Wilhelm Albin, a 52-year-old resident of Munich, Germany, who was vacationing in Mexico in the summer of 1967. Albin and his wife were driving along the beach highway between Tampico and Vera Cruz on a warm June night when they struck a snowman-like creature with their rental car.

"I have always been a very skeptical individual and never believe anything until I know it is true," Albin informed the Mexican police. "This thing was real. We were driving about 50 m.p.h. when a figure darted across the highway in front of us. I hit the brakes. My tires squealed, the car lurched and, through the windshield, I caught a glimpse of a horrible, grotesque face."

There was a sickening crunch and Albin fought to control his automobile. "We went in and out of a ditch, then I pulled over and stopped. I grabbed a flashlight and walked back to where this thing was lying on the highway," he related. "He appeared dead."

"He was a magnificent creature, at least nine feet tall,

with a wide chest," Albin stated. "The chest was at least 50 inches wide, and the body tapered down from there. The face was the most remarkable thing I have ever seen. It sat flat on his shoulders with no evidence of a neck. It had both ape and human features in the face. The hands were quite large, broad, wide and long, hairy fingers. The entire body was covered with a reddish hair."

The tourist forgot the damage to his automobile fender and raced back to the parked car to get his camera. "I was fumbling with some flash bulbs when the thing leaped up from the road, howling loudly, and ran off the highway into the bushes," Albin said. "I really wanted a picture and I started to go in after it. My wife's good sense prevailed."

The alarmed tourist also informed the police that there was a "sickening, horrible smell lingering about the creature." He said the odor was almost nauseous when he approached the unconscious form and played the flashlight beam over its body. The couple continued their vacation. "But we will not drive at night," Albin said.

THE SNOWMAN WHO CAME TO TOWN

37-year-old Aubekir Bekanov, a Kabardin villager, sang softly in Russian as he followed his flashlight beam toward his home. He had been to a late movie in town and, now, the midnight streets were devoid of other people. Up ahead, the Russian saw a figure standing near a fence.

"I snapped my flashlight up and found myself staring directly into the face of a hairy, man-like beast," Bekanov later told Russian journalists in June, 1964. "I was paralyzed and was almost rooted into the ground. The creature stared back. We were both transfixed."

Bekanov moved backward away from the staring ABSM. "At that precise moment, the *alamasti* spun, jumped the fence in a mighty leap and ran into the cherry orchard," he said. "I was not about to follow him."

Two young teen-aged girls were picking cherries in the orchard on the following morning. They glanced down the rows of trees and saw a giant, hairy beast shak-

ing the trunk of a tree. The creature then sat down for a breakfast of ripe cherries.

The frightened girls brought several of their friends to see the beast. Altogether, nine residents of Kabardin witnessed the strange creature's journey through their village. All signed sworn statements for Russian journalists who reported the story.

THE HAIRY MONSTER OF MONTEAGLE MOUNTAIN

Pretty, 19-year-old Brenda Ann Adkins is quick to raise her hands in horror at the mention of "abominable snowmen." Miss Adkins was visiting in Tennessee in Spring, 1968, and drove up Monteagle mountain one Sunday afternoon to shoot color photographs of the scenery.

"I parked my car, left my camera inside, and was searching for a good spot to shoot from," she related. "I was staring out over a high cliff when a violent noise in the woods behind me attracted my attention. Almost at the same time, I became aware of a terrible stench—almost as if something had died."

Without warning, the brush parted and a seven-foot hairy creature stalked out of the woods. "I was frozen with terror," Miss Adkins said. "It was actually part ape, part human with an enormous chest, powerful arms and legs, and almost covered by a dark red hair."

Even more ominous, the beast was between Miss Adkins and her automobile. "It was awful. He was coming

down the path, growling and roaring. I was trapped on the edge of that cliff," she recalled.

Before the creature reached the terrorized young woman, the beast stopped, cocked his ugly head in a quizzical manner and stared with curiosity at the young tourist. "I didn't hardly breathe," Miss Adkins sighed. "Then, after a few minutes, he made an itty-bitty bubbling sound and melted back into the woods."

Since that frightening Spring day, Miss Adkins and her father have searched for the creature on Monteagle mountain. "Dad works in Chattanooga. We're hoping to get it with either a rifle or a camera," Miss Adkins said. "But we've about decided the thing was just a strange sort of tourist. Dad thinks he may have been headed south into Florida. A truck driver told us about some people who seen something like that down there."

Miss Adkins still has vivid nightmares about the experience. "I had to take some sleeping pills for awhile," she said. "You see something like that and you don't forget it."

THE "DEMONS" WHO WERE STONED TO DEATH

During the ninth and tenth centuries, many leaders of both the church and state were obsessed with visions of macabre demons, werewolves and other fantastic creatures. Many of these medieval leaders penned savage diatribes against "the devil's children" and "monsters from the forest."

Argobard, the Archbishop of Lyons, wrote his famous *Liber contra insulam opinionem* in 840 and condemned the farmers of Lyons for "trading with the demons." Argobard also reported that three "demons"—two males and a female—were captured outside of Lyons. They were sentenced to death by stoning. Before their execution, the "demons" were "detained for some days in chains, then finally put on show to the mob, and as I have said, in our presence they were stoned to death."

The Archbishop spoke very familiarly of "evil demons" in his manuscript. Unfortunately, he did not include a description of these beings. We do not know whether they were three unlucky peasants or whether the mountains around Lyons contained the medieval abominable snowman.

OR, ARE THEY EXTINCT?

Nawang Gombu, a veteran Sherpa mountaineer and the only man to ever climb Mt. Everest twice, believes the *Yeti* has vanished. "He has disappeared like the dinosaur," Nawang Gombu told newsmen.

"I used to hear them cry like a small child on the mountains," Gombu reported. "Their angry screams were sometimes like a harsh tiger's roar. I know they existed but civilization has come too close to the mountains and they are now decreased."

A flurry of sightings in other parts of the world indicates that the *Yeti* is still alive. He may have moved farther into the mountains.

THE WILD CREATURE OF SISKIYOU

The Bigfoot Bulletin, 5309 College Avenue, Oakland, California is a treasure trove of information on current sightings of ABSMs and historical encounters with these incredible creatures. In a recent bulletin, they reprinted a story from a booklet entitled *The Hermit of Siskiyou*, written by L. W. Music and published by the *Crescent City (Calif.) News* in 1896. The booklet is now in the Humboldt county historical collection at Humboldt State College, Arcata, Calif. The article reads:

Note 1. A Del Norte *Record* Correspondent, writing from Happy Camp, Siskiyou county, Jan. 2, 1886, discourses as follows: "I do not remember to have seen any reference to the 'Wild Man' which haunts this part of the country, so I shall allude to him briefly. Not a great while since, Mr. Jack Dover, one of our most trustworthy citizens, while hunting, saw an object standing one hundred and fifty yards from him picking berries or tender shoots from the bushes. The thing was of gigantic

size—about seven feet high—with a bulldog head, short ears, and long hair. It was also furnished with a beard, and was free from hair on such parts of its body as is common among men. Its voice was shrill, or soprano, and very human, like that of a woman in great fear. Mr. Dover could not see its footprints as it walked on hard soil. He aimed his gun at the animal, or whatever it was, several times, but because it was so human, would not shoot. The range of the curiosity is between Marble Mountain and the vicinity of Happy Camp. A number of people have seen it and all agree in their descriptions except some make it taller than others. It is apparently herbivorous and makes winter quarters in some caves of Marble Mountain."

JACKO—THE FANTASTIC SASQUATCH BOY

Canada's Frazer river flows on a meandering course through British Columbia, past some of the world's most inaccessible scenery. Simon Frazer, a dour, bullet-headed explorer, was the first man to descend the rampaging stream and even then the Indians talked of unusual creatures lurking in the forests. Since Frazer's time, the Frazer river area has become a treasure trove of folklore, fact and fiction concerning Canada's legendary *Sasquatch*.

One of the most interesting stories was printed in the *Daily British Colonist* in 1884. The saga of "Jacko—the Boy Sasquatch" is so fantastic that it is reprinted in the original version in entirety:

"YALE, B. C., JULY 3, 1884—In the immediate vicinity of the No. 4 tunnel, situated some 20 miles above this village, are bluffs of rock which have hitherto been insurmountable, but on Monday morning last were successfully scaled by Mr. Onderdonk's employees on the regular train from Lytton (Note: On-

derdonk is the construction genius who slashed a railroad through this rugged country.)

"Assisted by Mr. Costerton, the British Columbia Express Company's messenger, a number of gentlemen from Lytton and points east of that place, after considerable trouble and perilous climbing captured a creature who may truly be called half man and half beast. 'Jacko,' as the creature has been called by his capturers, is something of the gorilla type standing about 4 feet 7 inches in height and weighing 127 pounds. He has long, black, strong hair and resembles a human being with one exception, his entire body, excepting his hands (or paws) and feet are covered with glossy hair about one inch long. His fore arm is much longer than a man's fore arm, and he possesses extraordinary strength, as he will take hold of a stick and break it by wrenching or twisting it, which no man living could break in the same way.

"Since his capture he is very reticent, only occasionally uttering a noise which is half bark and half growl. He is, however, becoming daily more attached to his keeper, Mr. George Telbury, of this place, who proposes shortly starting for London, England, to exhibit him. His favorite food so far is berries, and he drinks fresh milk with evident relish. By advice of Dr. Hannington, raw meats have been withheld from Jacko, as the doctor thinks it would have a tendency to make him savage.

"The mode of capture was as follows: Ned Austin, the engineer, on coming in sight of the bluff at the eastern end of the No. 4 tunnel saw what he supposed to be a man lying asleep at close proximity to the track, and as quick as thought blew the signal to apply the brakes. The brakes were instantly applied, and in a few seconds the train was brought to a standstill. At this moment the supposed man sprang up, and uttering

a sharp quick bark began to climb the steep bluff. Conductor R. J. Craig and Express Messenger Costerton, followed by the baggage man and brakemen, jumped from the train and knowing they were some 20 minutes ahead of time, immediately gave chase. After 5 minutes of perilous climbing the then supposed demented Indian was corralled on a projecting shelf of rock where he could neither ascend nor descend. The query now was how to capture him alive, which was quickly decided by Mr. Craig, who crawled on his hands and knees until he was about 40 feet above the creature. Taking a small piece of loose rock he let it fall and it had the desired effect of rendering poor Jacko incapable of resistance for a time at least. The bell rope was then brought up and Jacko was now lowered to terra firma. After binding him and placing him in a baggage car, 'off brakes' was sounded and the train started for Yale. At the station a large crowd who had heard of the capture by telephone from Spuzzum Flat were assembled, and each one anxious to have the first look at the monstrosity, but they were disappointed, as Jacko had been taken off at the machine shops and placed in charge of his present keeper.

"The question naturally arises, how came the creature where it was first seen by Mr. Austin? From bruises about its head and body, and apparent soreness since its capture, it is supposed that Jacko ventured too near the edge of the bluff, slipped, fell and lay where found until the sound of the rushing train aroused him. Mr. Thomas White, and Mr. Gouin, C. B. E., as well as Mr. Major, who kept a small store about half a mile west of the tunnel during the past two years, have mentioned having seen a curious creature at different points between Camps 13 and 17, but no attention was paid to their remarks as people came to the conclusion that they had either seen a bear or stray Indian dog.

Who can unravel the mystery that now surrounds Jacko? Does he belong to a species hitherto unknown in this part of the continent or is he really what the train men first thought he was, a crazy Indian?"

In those days, a newspaper reporter had the time, and his publisher had the space, to print a complete report on almost any event. However, following this tantalizing news story, Jacko simply vanished. Several *Sasquatch* enthusiasts have searched old news files for some clue to the fate of the creature. The story started and ended in that single edition of the *Daily British Colonist* and Jacko's ultimate fate may never be known unless some reader unearths a yellowed clipping from an old newspaper. Or, perhaps a family diary contains the final report on this legendary Sasquatch.

THE HAIRY MONSTER'S MIDNIGHT RAID

Three migrant crop workers were living in a shack near Marshall, Michigan a few years ago during the cucumber harvest season. They had just returned from a Saturday night's festivities in a nearby community when Philip Williams, then seventeen, stepped outside the shack a few minutes before midnight. Williams was terrorized by a dark, hairy form lurking near the doorway. He raced desperately back into the house and shouted for help.

Twenty-year-old Herman Williams grabbed a shotgun and rushed to his brother's assistance. Both men were frantically searching for shells for the gun. Their efforts woke Otto Collins, another worker.

"Let's don't get excited," Collins urged, rubbing the sleep from his eyes. "Maybe you just imagined something out there. Anyone can get spooked at night."

Collins and Philip Williams walked out onto the dark porch. Neither man saw any sign of an intruder. Collins turned to re-enter the house. "There's nothing out here," he said.

His statement was interrupted by a terrified shriek from Philip Williams.

"I started to turn around but the creature must have been behind us all of the time," Collins reported, later. "I felt two powerful arms lock around me. I was lifted off the ground as if I was a toy."

Herman Williams was inside the house. He heard his brother's screams, dropped his shotgun and dashed outside. "I could not see what was happening so I ran out into the yard and snapped on the headlights of the car," he said.

The blazing headlights focused on a frightening tableau. A giant, hairy creature had tucked Collins and Williams under each arm and was now carrying his captives toward a field. Herman Williams was transfixed as the apelike monster struggled to maintain balance against his squirming cargo.

There was a table sitting by the side of the house. As the monster passed, his hulking body brushed against the edge and he staggered momentarily. Herman Williams raced forward and slammed his body against the gigantic creature. "It stumbled for a moment and then dropped us," one of the youths told lawmen. "It looked a little bewildered, staring around in confusion, and then walked off into the darkness."

The men described the creature as "furry, and covered all over with dark hair."

"It smelled like something real rotten," said Otto Collins, voicing a frequently reported element in many ABSM encounters.

The men also recalled that the monster's eyes glared in the light. "They were large, greenish eyes," recalled Otto Collins. "They seemed to be as big as light bulbs and they were bright enough to scare you to death." Other people who have encountered ABSMs at night have mentioned the fact that their eyes reflect light like those of other animals.

Law enforcement officers were skeptical of the story.

There was no evidence of such a creature and, after the cucumber crop was harvested, the three workers moved along with the harvest. Locally, the story was considered to be the product of an overactive youthful imagination. Now, in the light of additional sightings, we can conclude that a giant ABSM was possibly the creature that came to call.

THE TIBETAN SNOWMAN & THE RED CHINESE ARMY

It was an intriguing story and the "China watchers" in Hong Kong wondered if Red Chinese Chairman Mao-Tse-Tung might have an abominable snowman caged behind the bamboo curtain. According to refugees from the Chinese mainland, a detachment of Red Chinese troops in Tibet were startled one afternoon when a creature with reddish-brown hair approached their encampment.

The beast was described as "part man, part ape" in appearance. One soldier said, "it looked like a super human when it rose to full height."

The soldiers grabbed their guns, nets and ropes and pursued the creature for several hours. The *London Observer* published a report on the incident in January, 1969, and informed their readers that no further information was available.

THE SNOWMAN WHO RAIDED A WATERMELON PATCH

It was no ordinary thief that raided farmer Henry Norton's watermelon patch along a wilderness area near Wadesboro, North Carolina. Policemen Manly Thomas could attest to that fact because he helped the farmer search for the big-footed thief. The only clue was several footprints left by the intruder and they measured an incredible thirteen inches long by five inches wide.

"I've had deer and cattle get into the field, but never anything like this thing," Norton informed newsmen. Even more puzzling were the five-inch claw marks left by the "thing" as it pawed melons while making a selection.

There was a 650-pound bear in captivity in the area and a comparison of tracks indicated the "thing" left prints that were twice as large as the bear's. Perhaps a southern cousin of the abominable snowman enjoyed succulent melons in the cool hours of night.

THE HEAD-HUNTING HORRORS OF NAHANNI VALLEY

It was a chilly autumn morning in 1906 when a priest at a small mission along the Laird river was startled to see a starving prospector limp out of the brush. The exhausted gold hunter's sunken eyes blazed with fever. The priest carefully helped his visitor to a bed, spooned a warm, nourishing soup into his mouth and carefully watched over the delirious man.

At night, the log walls of the old mission rang with the prospector's feeble, babbling cries. "Watch out, Sam . . . oooh! They got Sam. Oh my Lord!" the tossing man cried.

The curious priest nursed the prospector to health during the next few weeks and, before he left, the prospector told his story. The priest later related the tale to Gordon Nicholson, the Canadian *Sasquatch* hunter. Perhaps the most improbable place to search for gold is in Canada's unusual Nahanni Valley, in the Northwest Territory. Nestled in the southern range of the unexplored McKenzie mountain range, the valley is a misty,

fog-shrouded land dotted with spurting hot sulphur springs and boiling geysers. Although the valley is located above the 60° latitude, it is warm and green for many months of the year.

"We heard about the valley when we was down at Dawson Creek, panning for gold," said the prospector, Jerry Walker. "They said there was all kinds of furs. And one grizzled old-timer swore he had brought gold out of there. We also heard the stories about men going into the valley and not coming out. An Indian said it was the place of the headless men."

The priest nodded. "I have heard those tales myself."

"But my partner, Sam, wanted to go back to the States with a big strike so we set out for the valley," Walker continued. "Father, you've never seen anything like that place. The fog is awful. It is like a devil's paradise! The mist is everywhere. We travelled in for a couple of days. Then, the things started moving in."

"What sort of things?" inquired the priest.

"We called them the 'monkey-men'," rasped the prospector. "They were taller than Sam, and he was a six-footer. We camped for the night and they started gathering around, coming in through the fog, calling to each other with whistles and howling like crazed monsters. Sam was pretty hot-tempered. We argued. I said leave them be 'til they bothered us. Sam was for shooting at them."

Surrounded by a howling band of furry creatures, locked in by the heavy fog, too frightened to sleep, the two prospectors huddled around their campfire until the morning. "It was almost noon before the fog lifted," Walker related. "We packed up and headed back toward the river. There was no sign of the 'monkey-men.' We camped along the river that night and, sure enough, they moved right in on us."

"It was almost morning when Sam went wild. They

were moving close to the campfire. We could see a dark, hairy thing, moving in and out of the fog," he continued. "They wanted us! Sam saw one, pulled his pistol and took after the thing. Poor Sam got lost in the fog. I kept calling to him and he was yelling back. Then, the things got him."

Jerry Walker remained by the fire. "I was too frightened to move in that fog," he admitted. "I heard them killing Sam. He didn't scream very long. I had a blazing firebrand in my hand. I was waving it at those things. All I heard was the smack of lips and the gnawing of teeth on bones! It was horrible!"

When the fog lifted, Walker discovered the remains of his partner. "Sam was nothing but a skeleton. Stripped clean. And his head was missing," he shuddered. "It was still dangerous but I followed the river out of there, stumbled and crawled across the mountains and got to the mission here."

As Gordon Nicholson reported, "there is no way to document this account of alleged ABSM cannibals lurking in the Nahanni Valley."

Nevertheless, the valley has a history of some ghastly monsters stalking the prospectors who venture into the unusual wilderness area. The valley is approximately 250 square miles of unusual terrain. The reports of gold in the area brought the McLeod brothers of Ft. Simpson on a desperate search for riches. They were later found dead and their bodies were claimed to be headless.

The records of the Canadian police reveal that Joe Mulholland, Bill Espler, Phil Powers, Martin Jurgensen, Yukon Fischer, Annie Le Ferte, a man known only as "O'Brien," Andy Hays, Ernest Savard and an unidentified prospector have died violently in the valley since 1909. Savard's body was found in 1945 in his sleeping bag with the head almost severed from his shoulders. "Savard had been in the valley once before and brought out some

very rich samples of gold rock," declared a law officer. "He was going in again after a supposed bonanza." The last disappearance occurred in 1946 when John Patterson, another prospector, vanished.

The Indians in the region believe the Nahanni Valley is 'the place of evil spirits.' They shun the area and claim 'mammoth grizzlies' and 'head-hunting mountain-men' prowl in the foggy valley. "I was in there once and I saw the evil spirits moving through the fog and heard them howling," an elderly Indian reported.

THE TEN-FOOT MONSTER OF COSTA MESA

"It looked worse than Frankenstein's monster," was the way an eyewitness described his eerie encounter with a ten-foot, hairy monster in Costa Mesa, California on the evening of February 19, 1963.

The witness dashed into the Costa Mesa police station shortly before midnight and told a bizarre tale to the skeptical policemen. "I was driving down Santa Ana avenue and just nearing the 15th street intersection when a dark, hulking monster lunged for my car," the man declared. "Honest, this thing was about ten feet tall, had pointed ears and was covered by hair."

"Perhaps it was a prank," said a policeman. "Someone may have been dressed up in a monkey suit."

"I caught a glimpse of that face in my headlights," insisted the eyewitness. "It was no prankster. The face was part man and part ape. I'm afraid to go home."

As the distraught man related his story to the police, the telephones in the station lit up like a neon sign.

"You're not going to believe this," said a caller. "We

got a ten- or twelve-foot ape wandering around on 15th street . . ."

" . . . You'd better get a few men out here with shot-guns," said another caller. "We got an escaped gorilla running loose. It's the biggest darn thing I've ever seen."

Sirens roaring, the officers rushed to the scene in their police cruisers. A search of the area failed to turn up the creature. However, there were dozens of nervous citizens who swore their sleep had been disturbed by a ten-foot marauding monster. Perhaps, an ABSM wandered into Costa Mesa, became frightened and withdrew back into the wilderness.

THE BERRY-PICKER'S HAIRY GIANT

A woodsman picking huckleberries in the fall of 1960 received the fright of his life when he encountered an apparent *Sasquatch* giant. The complete account of the incident is reprinted here from the October 4, 1960, issue of the Nelson, British Columbia, Canada *News*:

"Man or beast, or both? Whatever it was that sent John Bringsli of Nelson fleeing in blind panic from the head of Lemmon Creek, hurling his huckleberry pail into the bush and racing for home in his early-model car, it had pulled a speedy disappearing act by the time he and a group of hunters returned to the scene.

"Mr. Bringsli, a woodsman, hunter and fisherman in Kootenay district for more than thirty-five years, swore on his reputation as an outdoorsman that it was definitely not a bear.

"In an interview, Mr. Bringsli related his experience with an 'unknown creature' seen while on a huckleberry-picking expedition alone near Six-Mile and

unashamedly told of his frantic race across a hundred yards of stunted bush and underbrush to his car.

"I had just started to pick berries and was moving slowly through the bush. I had only been there about fifteen minutes.

"For no particular reason, I glanced up and that's when I saw this great beast. It was standing about fifty feet away on a slight rise in the ground, staring at me.

"The sight of this animal paralyzed me. It was seven to nine feet tall, with long legs and short, powerful arms and with hair covering its body. The first thing I thought was, what a strange looking bear.

"It had very wide shoulders, and a flat face with ears flat against the side of its head. It looked more like a big, hairy ape.

"It just stood there staring at me. The animal's arms were bent slightly, and most astounding was that it had hands . . . not claws.

"It was about eight a.m., and I could see it very clearly,' Mr. Bringsli said. 'The most peculiar thing about it was the strange bluish-gray tinge of color of its long hair. It had no neck. Its ape-like head appeared to be fastened directly to its wide shoulders.'

"Mr. Bringsli stood with mouth agape, staring at the thing for about two minutes. Then it began slowly to walk, or rather shuffle, toward the paralyzed huckleberry hunter. It was then that Mr. Bringsli decided it was time for him to find another berry-picking location.

"He sprinted to the car and drove recklessly down the old logging road and home.

"Mr. Bringsli returned to the scene the next day with a group of friends armed with high-powered rifles and cameras, but the strange beast did not reappear. They did find one track nearby. It was from sixteen to seventeen inches long. There were no claw

marks but rather a 'sharp toe print,' as described by Mr. Bringsli.

"When asked if he would return to that area again, he retorted, 'Of course, but this time I'll take along the old 30.06 just for good luck.' "

ALAMASTI— WHERE ARE YOU?

It might be appropriate to pause and look at the other side of the story. Russian Professor Valeri Avdeyev is skeptical about claims concerning ABSMs, snowmen, *Alamastis*, *Yetis*, *Sasquatch* or whatever we choose to call the 'wild men' of the forests. In an open letter to his scientific colleagues in Russia's *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, Dr. Avdeyev asked for proof of ABSM reality. He wrote:

"From time to time in popular literature, the question is raised of the existence of hitherto unknown wild men . . . The authors of a recent article in *Tass* and *Nedelya* claim to have been chased by an abominable snowman in the Caucasus mountains. They maintain official science is wrong in rejecting the possibility of the existence of a wild, man-like creature, unknown to science that is hiding in places difficult of access, because more and more testimony is being gathered to the effect that natives of the Caucasus have long known about him and some have seen him in our own time.

". . . to date, there have been no solid facts from the

Alamasti hunters. The testimony of eyewitnesses is the main, and so far the only, argument on behalf of the existence of the 'wild man' of the Caucasus. None of the eyewitnesses have ever produced the body of an *Alamasti*. Where is the hide and the hair, and finally, where are the bones of these creatures? If they are Neanderthals, as Prof. Porshchev maintains, why have no traces of weapons fashioned by them, or remains of their feeding ever been discovered?

"You can produce eyewitnesses of people who have seen mermaids, fairies and other unworldly creatures," chided Dr. Avdeyev.

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S MIDGET SASQUATCH

The *Vancouver Sun* edition of June 24, 1968 contained a report on the sighting of a small, five-foot *Sasquatch* by logger Gordon Baum. Baum, employed by the Fleetwood Logging Company, was working in the Salmon Inlet near Sechelt, British Columbia, on May 17th when he became thirsty and headed for a nearby waterfall to obtain a refreshing drink of water.

The logger walked down a dirt road and spotted the five-foot creature standing about one hundred yards away. "I must have frightened him because he put one hand on a log, jumped over it and ran away pretty fast," Baum informed newsmen.

Although he was a distance from the creature, Baum said: "It wasn't a bear. You see a lot of those in the woods. This had to be a *Sasquatch*. It was covered with black hair and didn't make a sound. It probably weighed around two hundred pounds."

Skeptics were shown additional proof of several large

footprints left by the creature. They measured five inches in width at the front of the toes. "A couple of fellows who were working with me found another footprint and a knee indentation in the dirt," reported Baum.

JOIN THE *BIG-FOOT* BELIEVERS!

A group of believers in ABSMs will be happy to make you a member. Complete membership data can be obtained by writing the Northwest Research Association, P. O. Box 1101, Yakima, Washington. You will receive a large photograph of an actual "big-foot;" a certificate of membership and a subscription to the group's quarterly news bulletin. "We need a news letter to stay up-to-date on all of the fast-breaking news about snowmen around the world," said a member.

THE ABOMINABLE SANDMAN OF BORREGO

Gold prospectors and enthusiastic treasure hunters frequently search for their bonanzas in some of the most isolated regions of the world. Since 1964, week-end treasure hunters and desert prospectors in the Borrego Valley desert in California have been puzzled by a creature they call 'the abominable sandman of Borrego.'

This is an arid, virtually uninhabited area near the Mexican border. There are scores of crevices, caves and openings in the Superstition mountains. Many treasure hunters believe the Cocopah Indians once knew of a subterranean network of caves and tunnels beneath the mountains.

Major Victor Stoyanow was seeking the entrance to just such a labyrinth in this area in January, 1964, when he noticed several huge, human-like footprints in the sand. "The prints ran in pairs, generally parallel and they averaged 14 centimeters in length and 9 wide at the instep," Major Stoyanow declared after his investigation.

THE MIDGET MONSTER OF MARIN COUNTY

The frightening disturbance occurred when Paul Conant and his companion were camping on Mt. Tamalpais in Marin county, California in July, 1964. The normal solitude of their outing was shattered by the appearance of something that was tailless, earless, walked erect like a man and spent the night calling to another creature.

Mr. Conant informed the police and newsmen that the unknown intruder was approximately five feet tall, "with its head very close to its shoulders."

Conant reported the muscular creature approached his camp and he noticed the peculiar, muscular body. Later, the beast retreated into the nearby woods and chattered with a similar creature for more than seven hours.

While skeptical newsmen scratched their heads in bewilderment, older residents of the region were less amused. "That's just one of the young big-foots coming down to forage for food," commented an elderly woodsman. "I seen a pair of them on the mountain one time, after tracking them for half a day. I didn't go close. The Indians will tell you that it don't pay to disturb them."

A VISIT TO THE YETI'S LAIR

There was no warning, beyond the ominous crackle of mountain twigs. A dark, shaggy-haired creature appeared like something out of a bad dream and 32-year-old Herman von Dancker's eyes widened as a single file line of strange creatures walked into view.

Von Dancker was prospecting for precious stones along the Salween river, a few miles from Bumthang Gompa, Nepal, in 1954 and had followed a vein of gold-like ore along a rugged cliff. "Our camp was perhaps a mile away and the guides were preparing the evening meal," he said. "I had no reason to have a gun or camera with me and I've lost a lot of sleep wishing I had."

The young adventurer's description of the ABSMs sounds familiar. "I judged the largest to be about eight feet tall and the smallest about seven feet in height," he said. "Their bodies were extremely muscular and they walked erect. Their arms hung down much further than human arms and almost reached the knees. Their bodies were covered with a shaggy, unkept dark hair. Some

were brown. Others were black, although they could have been brown if their coats were dirty.

"Their heads were almost egg-shaped and there was a point to it," von Dancker continued. "The face was the most interesting point. It appeared to be a mixture of both ape and human features. Really an incredible creature. I would think they are some wholly new form of animal life. They would not fit easily into either the ape or human families."

A line of six of these creatures passed von Dancker at a distance of "no more than fifty yards." They ambled silently toward the river.

"I decided they would be coming down for the daily drink of water," von Dancker reported. "I hurried back to the camp. The guides were not surprised. I couldn't get the older men to come along and follow them. However, one young man agreed to accompany me in an attempt to discover their living place."

"Take this," said a middle-aged guide. He wrapped a rag around a stick and handed a can of fire starting fluid to von Dancker. "If they start to attack you, they will run from fire."

"We stayed far below the area where they had come to drink," von Dancker continued. "We waited. I heard some whistling sounds. We could hear water being splashed about. They were apparently swimming in the river."

Finally, the young German was rewarded with a glimpse of a dark form moving up the ridge. "They're headed back up the cliff," he announced, cautiously moving forward.

Von Dancker followed the creatures over the cliff, across a ridge and down a precarious slope. "They had an incredible ability to move across ground that would stop the strongest man," he commented. "They were also

skilled in not leaving any sign of their presence behind them."

Suddenly, von Dancker and his young companion lost sight of the creatures. For ten minutes, they cautiously prowled about in the underbrush. Once, panic seized them and they were prepared to run. A gurgling noise sounded in the forest around them. A whistle pierced the gloomy twilight. Sporadic sounds reverberated through the bushes.

"We had followed them into a dense thicket," declared von Dancker. "The realization suddenly rushed over me that we were in the midst of their lair."

Almost at that precise moment, the young guide nudged von Dancker and he followed the boy's trembling finger to a point a few yards away. "There was this monstrous, old, shaggy creature eyeing us with a disgusted look on his face," von Dancker said. "I carefully reached back and unclipped the top of the holster on the Luger pistol I'd grabbed back at the camp. If it came to a fight, I wanted to get in at least one shot."

"Shall I light the fire?" the young guide asked in a quavering voice. He waved the ragged stick.

"Not yet, but be ready to do so," replied von Dancker.

The next few moments were a staring contest between the mysterious forest creature and the intruders who had ventured into their wilderness lair. "Then, the fellow turned and walked back through the underbrush," von Dancker announced. "We made a hasty retreat. We were certainly glad to return to the camp," von Dancker said. "We sat up most of the night discussing the creatures. My appetite for information was almost insatiable. The older guides were not concerned. To them, it seemed to be about like seeing a boar in boar country."

Bleary-eyed from lack of sleep, armed with gun and camera, Herman von Dancker prowled the area for sev-

eral days. "It was frustrating. I had seen them with my eyes and I wanted documented evidence," he reported. "In addition, I knew a good photo, or a carcass, would bring a fantastic price. So I admit there was greed involved, more so than scientific curiosity."

Despite his intensive search, von Dancker was unable to catch a glimpse of another ABSM.

"You have frightened them away," said an elderly guide. "They are miles away from here. Or, they are snug within their caves and you will never find them."

"Reluctantly, I packed up and we returned to the village for fresh supplies. The trip was not an entire disappointment," he summed up. "I found a small pocket of nuggets in a mountain stream and that paid for the trip."

Herman von Dancker's experience, like many other reports of ABSM activity, depends entirely on his own integrity. He forwarded an account of his experience after an article of mine was published in a national magazine.

Dr. Jeanne-Marie-Therese Koffman, the Russian ABSM authority, recently condemned her colleagues for scoffing at eyewitness accounts. "Is there really any reason to question them?" she inquired. "Those who think like you solve the problem very simply . . . all reports are dismissed as false. Discussion is thus closed."

"Two years ago a respectable Moscow scientist asked to look at my records and evidence," Dr. Koffman continued. "However, he flatly refused to consider 'old wives' tales. Yet, my files contained records from many important military men, party members and research workers."

THE GIRL-GRABBING MONSTERS OF INDIA

"The *vanamanushas* are coming!" is a bizarre cry that terrorizes the villagers in Chamoli district, India. Two hundred miles from New Delhi, in the lower base of the western Himalayan mountains, the sparsely-policed area has been plagued by grisly raids by "wicked wild men" who kidnap women and carry them into the hills. "No woman ever returns," reported the weekly newspaper *Garhwal Samachar* in the summer of 1965.

Villagers who have continued to fight the invasion of weird creatures, claim they are muscular, flat-nosed, covered with hair and their fingers touch their knees when they stand erect. "They sound suspiciously like an ABSM," reported a newsman in New Delhi.

The existence of these wild beasts has been known for hundreds of years, according to the villagers, but in recent decades they have become more numerous. Some villagers say the wild men come prowling into their streets, demanding grain, salt and other foodstuffs.

Wild jungle boys have always been a favorite in Indian folklore. But hairy creatures who abduct women are a frightening phenomena which authorities have desperately tried to eliminate.

THE SCIENTIST WHO PROWLED THE *YETI* CAVES

Dr. Norman Dyhrenfurth, who accompanied a Swiss expedition into the Himalayan mountains in 1954, is one of the few scientists who has been in the lair of the abominable snowman. Dr. Dyhrenfurth slipped into *Yeti* caves in the mountains and collected proof of their existence.

Among his evidences are several remarkable castings of footprints, wisps of hair which he plucked from the entrances and tops of the caves, and numerous specimens of abandoned food scraps. The journey convinced Dr. Dyhrenfurth. "The largest specie is approximately eight to nine feet tall," he told newsmen. "The smallest is about four feet in height. I believe they're some form of sub-human creature."

"NO HUMAN COULD RUN THAT FAST . . ."

It was early August, 1964, and logger Lou Rigley was carefully maneuvering his logging truck along the Girds Creek region, near Hamilton, Montana, when he saw a movement on a rock above the road. "I looked for several seconds," Rigley told newsmen. "It definitely wasn't human. This thing was about five feet tall, had a hairy look, had no clothes and stood upright like a human. But I know it wasn't human."

Rigley is an enthusiastic hunter and has tracked everything from cougars to bears in the rugged mountains of Montana. "This thing just didn't look normal," he declared. "I stopped the truck to take a better look and this man-thing took off and bounded out of sight."

"Could a man have run that fast through the woods?" inquired a reporter. "Perhaps this was someone dressed up in a costume."

"Absolutely not," declared Rigley. "The country is extremely rugged at that spot. No human could have gotten out of there as fast as that thing did."

Apparently, a family of ABSMs has moved into the region.

AFRICA'S MYSTERIOUS LITTLE FURRY MEN

In the late nineteen thirties, the world was astonished by persistent reports of pygmy-like man-beasts hidden in the deep glades of African forests. One of the most fascinating concerned Captain William Hichens, who was on an official lion safari in the Ussure forest in central Africa.

"... while waiting in a forest glade for a man-eater, I saw two small, brown, furry creatures come from the dense forest on one side of the glade and disappear into the thicket on the other side," Captain Hichens stated. "They were like little men, about four feet high, walking upright, but covered in russet hair. The native hunter with me gazed in mingled fear and amazement."

"They are the *agogwe*," the native declared. "The little furry men. You seldom see them more than once in a lifetime."

"I made desperate efforts to find them, but without avail in that well-nigh impenetrable forest," Captain Hichens continued in his report. "They may have been

monkeys, but if so, they were no ordinary monkeys, nor baboons, nor colobus, nor sykes, nor any other kind found in Tanganyika.

"What were they?" he inquired in conclusion.

Not only do we have to contend with giant creatures in the forests, but now we are confronted with some tiny pygmy ABSM-types in Africa. These same African creatures were also reported by Cuthbert Burgoyne, who was touring along the Portuguese East African Coast on a Japanese cargo boat in 1927. Mr. Burgoyne was looking toward the beach with a telescope and was excited to catch a glimpse of two magnificent and rare white baboons.

"As we watched, two little brown men walked out of the bush and down among the baboons," he declared. "They were certainly not any known monkey but they must have been akin because they did not disturb the baboons. They were at too great a distance to see in detail but these small, human-like creatures were probably between four and five feet tall, quite upright and graceful in figure."

Later, Mr. Burgoyne discussed the sighting with a big game hunter. "I was in that area with a hunting party and saw a mother, father and child of this type walk through the clearing," the hunter said. "I was preparing to shoot one of them when the native guides became disturbed and forbid me to do so."

"The Little Red Men of the Mountains" are supposed to rule the lofty Dwa Ngombe hills above the Emberre plains, according to S. V. Cook in *The Journal of East Africa and Uganda Natural History Society*, published in 1924. The author told of natives who were climbing the mountain "when suddenly an icy cold wind blew and they were pelted with showers of small stones by some unseen adversaries."

"Happening to look up in a pause in their hasty re-

treat, he assures me that he saw scores of little red men hurling down rocks and waving defiantly from the cliff heights," Cook concluded. "To this day the most intrepid hunter will not venture into the hills."

There have been similar reports from other regions of the dark continent. The vast majority are concerned with the 'little red men' and their customs.

WHY THEY GO IN THE SNOW

"I've been out here for many years and I'm astonished by the similarities in reports on these abominable snow creatures," said Major John H. Edwards, a retired Army Colonel who saw Asia after World War II as an occupation officer and returned to live there. "The Sherpas, the Tibetans and the Lepchas all give the same description for these beasts. Most of them feel they're a relatively harmless creature, who will attack a human under great provocation."

Edwards continued: "The word snowman is undoubtedly an error. I have discovered it is not a human, as we known *homo sapiens*. They do not live in the snow. The natives say they live in the deepest part of the forests, establishing their homes in caves. They sleep during the day and prowl for their food at night. Furthermore, they often whistle before they approach a human settlement. No one knows if this is meant to be a warning or not.

"There are some new reports out here saying they swing from tree to tree in ape fashion when they're in

the forest," Edwards declared. "They walk upright like a human only when they are in treeless country. The natives frequently leave a little salt outside their villages. These 'gifts' presumably save the creatures their long trip into the snow country. There have been many reports of ABSMs grubbing for roots in the snow. The natives say the creatures are actually digging for a salt-type moss, which is necessary for their diet. If their salt hunger is satisfied by the 'gifts' the creatures don't have to walk up to the mountains."

HE FILMED THE BIG FOOT MONSTER

One of the nation's most relentless monster hunters is Roger Patterson, a thirty-five-year-old former rodeo rider from Yakima, Washington. Patterson's career as a rodeo contestant took him to many parts of the western states and he became intrigued with stories of mysterious beasts living in the forests of California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia.

Skeptical at first, Patterson interviewed several dozen eyewitnesses. "It sounds fantastic to have a giant 'Big Foot' living in our forests," Patterson reported. "But if people had been with me during the past few years, they would have no doubts. I didn't become a believer until I did a complete investigation on the matter."

Patterson made several expeditions into the wilderness in search of an actual specimen. His efforts were unsuccessful until 3:30 p.m. on the afternoon of October 20, 1967. Patterson and his partner, Bob Gimlin, were riding on horseback through the giant forest northwest of Eureka, California. Their horses reared and, up ahead, they

saw a strange, hair-covered creature walking upright through the timber. Patterson grabbed his movie camera and, zooming in on the beast, chased it by foot until the beast disappeared into the woods.

The movie was a highly controversial strip of 16MM color film that disturbed many scientists who viewed it. Ivan T. Sanderson (who gave us the initials ABSM for *ABominable Snow Men*) arranged for several of his colleagues to view the film in Washington, D. C.

A scientist from the Smithsonian Institute stated: "... observed nothing that would point directly to a hoax." Another viewer speculated that the creatures, if real, might have migrated from Asia to America over a land bridge said to have once existed between Russia and Alaska.

The film was also shown to several Canadian scientists and Dr. Don Abbott, an anthropologist with the Provincial Museum in Victoria, British Columbia, commented: "It is as hard to believe this film could have been faked as to admit that such a creature might exist."

John Green, publisher of the *Agassiz Advance* (Harrison Lakes, British Columbia, Canada) was disturbed by the apparent indifference of scientists to Patterson's film. He reported:

"When the processed film was first shown in Yakima, the first time that Patterson himself saw it, who was on hand to see it? Jim McLarin, a Humboldt State College student, Dahinden, and myself. Scientists in British Columbia saw the film at all only because of our efforts to have it shown to them and because Patterson was not sure what to do with it at first.

"Only Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan took the trouble to see it on both occasions that it was shown at the university of B. C. and no scientist took much time to interview the men who had made it. Dahinden, McLarin and myself, on the other hand, studied the film and its owners at

four showings and spent the best part of two days going over the story with Patterson and his partner, Bob Gillin.

"It startled us to hear several scientists declare that they did not question that Patterson and Gimlin were sincere, but that they had their doubts about the thing they had filmed being real.

"The idea that anyone would parade around in an ape suit in front of two men hunting just such a thing and armed with heavy rifles is pretty hard to believe. That any man could have moved as freely as the creature on the film while carrying the weight to make the tracks which Patterson and Gimlin said they saw it make, is totally beyond belief. If the film is a hoax, Patterson and Gimlin have to be the hoaxers.

". . . Despite a general invitation, no scientists came to the film-showing from farther than Victoria, except for a man whose fare from Humboldt State was paid by a radio station. On the other hand, Bob Titmus, a *Sasquatch* hunter of nine years standing, came from Kitimat at his own expense and then went on down to California to see for himself down there. He found the tracks in good condition and reported that they conformed exactly to Patterson's account . . .

"Either there are *Sasquatches* or there are not—there is no middle ground. If there are no *Sasquatches*, there is no need to do anything about them—and that is precisely the position that has been taken up to the present.

"If there are any *Sasquatches*, however, they are extremely important. As man's nearest relative, at least physically, they will make it possible for him to learn a lot about himself and his origins.

"They may also be much closer to man mentally than any known creature. Perhaps they are capable of speech. Even if they are nothing special, the mere fact that they have eluded man for so long would make them of particular interest.

"In short, if there are *Sasquatches*, they are something that curious man in his quest for knowledge should be ready to spend time, trouble and money to catch.

"The situation now is that the established position is crumbling in spite of all the entrenched experts can do to keep it intact. Where once they could brush off any questions with easy explanations, now they are faced with things they cannot explain except by suggesting fantastic and pointless hoaxes.

"Surely the time has been reached where the people who control the purse strings and thus direct the course of scientific inquiry should stop acting on belief alone and take steps to have a thorough examination made of the available evidence to determine whether there are *Sasquatches* or not."

ZANA—THE SNOW GIRL WHO CAME IN FROM THE COLD

Out of the icy steppes of Russia came an astonishing story of the world's most unusual creature. Zana was her name and ABSM enthusiasts touted this allegedly civilized *alamasti* as proof positive of the absolute reality of the abominable snow creatures. From Moscow to Milwaukee, scientists raged, fumed, scoffed or simply ignored the carefully worded statement released by Russian professor Boris Porshnev.

In the bucolic village of Tkhina, in the Caucasus mountains, the professor said he had exhumed the grave of a female *alamasti*. "The bones are those of a *woman-like* creature," declared the professor. "A brief study of the skeleton reveals some differences from the skeletal structure of modern humans."

A bizarre legend in the village reported that Zana, a wild, hairy woman, had died in 1884 and was given a respectable burial by the entire village. Dr. Porshnev heard of the legend and grimly vowed to track down the creature's grave.

The legend was enough to send any red-blooded 'monster hunter' packing his pick and shovel. It seems that about a hundred years ago, a resident of the village named Geneba had some business dealings with a Prince Achbe. He was one of those grim fellows of the past century who gunned down boar, bear or whatever popped up out of the great forests of Russia. During a hunting trip, the Prince captured a female creature in a remote valley in the Caucasus mountains.

The Prince displayed this human-like giant female in his palace for a season and, once the novelty had diminished, gave the living trophy to Geneba. The Russian was intrigued with the gift and brought her to his village.

"I shall call her Zana," he announced. "Zana, the wild woman of the mountains."

For several months, it was necessary to guard Zana. However, regular meals and a warm bed were comforts that appealed to the amiable creature. She became accustomed to the curious villagers, lost her fear of humans, and was eventually allowed to roam throughout the village.

Geneba's neighbors were intrigued by Zana. "She has the muscles of a giant," a farmer remarked one evening. "Do you suppose she could be trained to do chores?"

"You're welcome to teach her," replied Geneba.

After many hours of instruction, Zana became capable of performing simple tasks. However, she frequently left her duties and wandered away to a warm spring where she bathed each day. This spring is still known as "Zana's place" in Tkhina.

After even more instruction, the villagers taught Zana to wear a small loin cloth. "She must have been an astonishing sight, wandering about the village, a gigantic creature covered with black hair and wearing a small skirt," one of Prof. Porshnev's students commented to Russian journalists. "The reports indicate that a school master

attempted to teach her to speak our language. She could only mumble a high-pitched gibberish."

One aged resident of the village recalled Zana's favorite pastime. "She loved Geneba's estate. He was a very wealthy man, you know, and had beautiful paths lined with the most beautiful rocks gathered from the countryside," the old man said. "Zana often collected these rocks and piled them into a pattern that seemed to be comforting to her. She also made a very musical noise by clapping rocks together."

Prof. Porshnev is convinced that the bones he exhumed from the village graveyard were possibly those of a primitive sub-human that has survived in the farthest regions of the world. Understandably, investigation of Zana's bones is continuing in the Soviet Union.

MARCO POLO'S 'MONKEY MEN'

In the year 1275, a twenty-one-year-old Venetian named Marco Polo and his two uncles arrived at the court of the Kublai Khan in what is now known as Peking, China. China's great wall was completed, the Khan's subjects were working on the canal between Peking and Canton and the country was well advanced in the arts, science and business.

The Polos prospered at the Khan's court and remained in China for twenty years. Marco Polo was a favorite of the "Great Khan" and traveled throughout his kingdom. His manuscript, *The Travels of Marco Polo* was written on his return to Europe and contains information concerning ABSM-like creatures in Asia. The translations reveal:

Of the island of Java Minor: "It should be known that what is reported respecting the dried bodies of diminutive human creatures or pygmies, brought from India, is an idle tale, such men being manufactured in this island in the following manner:

"The country produces a species of monkey, of a tolerable size, and having a countenance resembling man. Those persons who catch them shave off the hair, leaving it only around the chin, and those other parts where it naturally grows on the human body. Then they dry and preserve them with camphor and other drugs; and having prepared them in a mode so they have exactly the appearance of little men, they put them in wooden boxes, and sell them to trading people who carry them to all parts of the world . . ."

Over the centuries there have been stories of tailed men in Africa, China, the islands in the Indian Ocean and Borneo. Polo wrote:

Of the kingdom of Lambri: ". . . in this land are found men with tails, a span in length, like those of a dog, but not covered with hair. The greater number of them are formed in this way, but they dwell in the mountains and do not come into the towns . . ."

Of Komari (Cape Comorin): ". . . this country is not much cultivated, being chiefly covered with forests, which are the abode of a variety of beasts. The woods are especially filled with apes, so formed, and of such a size, as to look like men . . ."

Were these creatures some primitive ancestor of our present abominable snowmen? Marco Polo mentioned them only briefly. The possibilities are intriguing.

THE CANNIBAL CREATURES OF ASIA

"What is covered with hair, has long teeth, walks erect and likes to eat people?"

The natives of Malaysia, Sumatra and other countries in southeast Asia would shudder at this question. Their hasty reply would be, "the hungry-mouth men of the mountains."

As they know, a hungry menagerie of deadly ABSMs prowl in the foggy rain forests and live in caves in the high mountains in this part of the world. Known as the *Taw*, or the *Santu Sanki*, these burly beasts creep through the darkness and slip down into the valleys where they catch, kill and devour any human who comes within reach of their powerful arms.

These drooling 'mouth-men' are to be avoided at all costs. Few humans have escaped from their clutches. "I have heard of cases where they are so hungry for meat that they literally ate people alive," claims Dr. A. R. Bronson, who practiced medicine in Sumatra.

Dr. Bronson tells of a young Communist rebel who hid from government forces in the early 1950s. "This young

rebel and several of his companions were making hit-and-run raids in the lowlands and then hiding out in caves up in the Barissan mountains," the doctor recalled. "After his capture, and before his execution, I tended to his wounds. He said his capture resulted when the 'mouth-men' drove them down into the valleys."

The rebels were hiding in a cave high in the mountains. They posted a sentry each night. "One morning, we awakened and he was gone," the young rebel informed the doctor. "We assumed he had deserted us, or been captured by the government forces. This happened on occasion. We set out other sentries."

On the next night, the sleeping guerrillas were shaken by the alarmed screams from a sentry. "We grabbed a flashlight and dashed to his aid. We caught a glimpse of something big, hairy and frightening, carrying him into the woods," he reported. "His screams continued for ten minutes. Then, silence. That night, I huddled near the cave entrance. It was getting close to dawn. I heard a noise and snapped the safety off on my machine pistol."

Another soldier stood ready with a hand grenade. "We sat there until daybreak and listened to something breathing outside the entrance," said the rebel. "We were scared. When daylight came, it shuffled off up the mountain."

The group launched a search for the missing soldier. "We found his body," he said. "His neck was broken. Something had eaten almost 20 or 30 pounds of flesh from his corpse."

The shaken rebels grabbed their guns, packed their supplies and hurried down into the valleys. In their haste to get away from the flesh-eating monster, they walked directly into an ambush by government soldiers. The young man who told the doctor of this frightening experience was later killed for his anti-government activities.

In *Monsters and Madmen* (also published by Popular Library) I reported on the "oily monster of the Malaysian jungles." This creature terrorized hunters, school children, woodmen and residents of remote villages. The hulking monster was undoubtedly an Asian ABSM, who wandered down into the jungles and became lost. His journey ended at a village one evening. He was attacked by a shouting band of machete-waving natives. The creature was severely wounded in the *melée* and crawled off into the jungles.

Another eerie episode occurred when a young hunter was walking to his car near Kuala Lumpur following a day of small game hunting. "I heard some footsteps in the bushes and suddenly realized I was the hunted and not the hunter," he informed authorities. Following a wild battle with two bristly, black-haired beasts, the hunter reached his automobile and roared down the road to town.

In Thailand, natives in the mountains live in terror of *Taw*, or men-beast werewolves. They raid their villages and livestock. Pets and humans are prey for these meat-hungry half-men. There are several accounts of native girls being kidnapped and dragged back into the *Taw* caves. None have ever returned from these abductions.

In southeast Asia, the cry of "mouth-men" sends even the strongest men running for safety.

CANADA'S GIANTS OF THE FOREST

Since the days of the early settlers, a perennial feature of Canadian life has been the frightening reports of *Sasquatch*—the wild, hairy giants of the forests. The stories often have a rare combination of great surprise, shock at seeing such a creature, and the inability to produce proof of the existence of these mysterious monsters.

One foggy morning in 1901, multimillionaire lumber baron and prospector Mike King was looking for "color" along a creek supposed to contain gold on Vancouver Island. King pushed his way through the dense underbrush, turned a bend in the river and came directly upon a *Sasquatch* male. "The chap was washing roots in the water," King explained. "I raised my rifle but I just couldn't shoot him down. He looked too close to being human. I stood there in admiration as he tore away through the woods at a fast clip."

King is but one of several hundred Canadian woodsmen who have stumbled into a *Sasquatch* through pure chance. King's forest giant was covered with the tradi-

tional reddish-brown hair. "His arms were quite long," he reported, "and he used them to part the brush as he ran."

Sasquatchery took a vacation until the morning of March 8, 1907, when a tribe of Indians demanded protection from a giant man-beast that had been disturbing their nights at Bishop's Cove, British Columbia. The coastal steamer *Capilano* made a routine landing at the small community and the whole population clamored aboard. "A whole tribe of *Sasquatch* have come to live along the beach," insisted the Indians, who were given passage down river.

Another *Sasquatch* invaded a homestead across the border from Ruby Creek, Washington, in the fall of 1941 and frightened Mrs. George Chapman, and her five-year-old son. They left their home and dashed to the home of a relative. On his return from work on a railroad track gang, George Chapman and his friends found footprints measuring sixteen inches in length by eight inches in width! The stride of the *Sasquatch* was estimated to be an incredible four to five feet.

Deputy Sheriff Joe Dunn investigated the incident. An experienced woodsman, the lawman was certain the tracks were not those of a bear. "The creature broke into a shed and lifted a 55-gallon drum of fish and carried it outdoors," said Dunn.

In 1957, William Roe, of Edmonton, Canada furnished a detailed affidavit of his sighting of a *Sasquatch* to John Green of the *Agassiz Advance*. The report was published in the newspaper and read:

"Ever since I was a small boy back in the forests of Michigan, I have studied the lives and habits of wild animals. Later when I supported my family in northern Alberta by hunting and trapping, I spent many hours just observing the wild things. They fascinated me. The most incredible experience I ever had with a wild creature oc-

curred near a little place called Tete Jaune Cache, B. C., about eighty miles west of Jasper, Alberta.

"I had been working on the highway near this place, Tete Jaune Cache, for about 2 years. In October 1955, I decided to climb five miles up Mica Mountain to an old deserted mine, just for something to do. I came in sight of the mine about 3 o'clock in the afternoon after an easy climb. I had just come out of a patch of low brush into a clearing, when I saw what I thought was a grizzly bear in the brush on the other side. I had shot a grizzly near that spot the year before. This one was only about 75 yards away, but I didn't want to shoot it, for I had no way of getting it out. So I sat down on a small rock and watched, with my rifle in my hand.

"I could just see part of the animal's head and the top of one shoulder. A moment later it raised up and stepped out into the opening. Then I saw it wasn't a bear.

"This to the best of my recollection is what the creature looked like and how it acted as it came across the clearing directly toward me. My first impression was of a huge man about 6 feet tall, almost 3 feet wide, and probably weighing near 300 pounds. It was covered from head to foot with dark brown, silver-tipped hair. But as it came closer I saw by its breasts that it was female.

"And yet, its torso was not curved like a female's. Its broad frame was straight from shoulder to hip. Its arms were much thicker than a man's arms and longer, reaching almost to its knees. Its feet were broader proportionately than a man's, about 5 inches wide in the front and tapering to much thinner heels. When it walked it placed the heel of its foot down first, and I could see the grey-brown skin or hide on the soles of its feet.

"It came to the edge of the bush I was hiding in, within 20 feet of me, and squatted down on its haunches. Reaching out its hands it pulled the branches of bushes towards it and stripped the leaves with its teeth. Its lips

curled flexibly around the leaves as it ate. I was close enough to see that its teeth were white and even. The head was higher at the back than at the front. The nose was broad and flat. The lips and chin protruded farther than its nose. But the hair that covered it, leaving bare only the parts of its face around the mouth, nose and ears, made it resemble an animal as much as a human. None of this hair, even on the back of its head, was longer than an inch, and that on its face much shorter. Its ears were shaped like a human's ears. But its eyes were small and black like a bear's. And its neck also was unhuman, thicker and shorter than any man's I have ever seen.

"As I watched this creature I wondered if some movie company was making a film in this place and that what I saw was an actor made up to look partly human, partly animal. But as I observed it more I decided it would be impossible to fake such a specimen. Anyway, I learned later there was no such company near that area. Nor, in fact, did anyone live up Mica Mountain, according to the people who lived in Tete Jaune Cache.

"Finally, the wild thing must have got my scent, for it looked directly at me through an opening in the brush. A look of amazement crossed its face. It looked so comical at that moment I had to grin. Still in a crouched position, it backed up three or four short steps, then straightened up to its full height and started to walk rapidly back the way it had come. For a moment it watched me over its shoulder as it went, not exactly afraid, but as though it wanted no contact with anything strange.

"The thought came to me that if I shot it I would possibly have a specimen of great interest to scientists the world over. I had heard stories about the Sasquatch, the giant hairy "Indians" that live in the legend of the Indians of British Columbia and also, many claim are still, in fact, alive today. Maybe this was a Sasquatch, I told myself.

"I levelled my rifle. The creature was still walking rapidly away, again turning its head to look in my direction. I lowered the rifle. Although I have called the creature "it," I felt now that it was a human being, and I knew I would never forgive myself if I killed it.

"Just as it came to the other patch of brush it threw its head back and made a peculiar noise that seemed to be half laugh and half language, and which I could only describe as a kind of a whinny. Then it walked from the small brush into a stand of lodge-pole pines.

"I stepped out into the opening and looked across a small ridge just beyond the pine to see if I could see it again. It came out on the ridge a couple of hundred yards away from me, tipped its head back again, and again emitted the only sound I had heard it make, but what this half laugh, half language was meant to convey I do not know. It disappeared then, and I never saw it again.

"I wanted to find out if it lived on vegetation entirely or ate meat as well, so I went down and looked for signs. I found it in five different places, and although I examined it thoroughly, could find no hair or shells or bugs or insects. So I believe it was strictly a vegetarian.

"I found one place where it had slept for a couple of nights under a tree. Now, the nights were cool up the mountain, at this time of year especially, and yet it had not used a fire. I found no signs that it possessed even the simplest of tools. Nor did I find any signs that it had a single companion while in this place.

"Whether this creature was a Sasquatch I do not know. It will always remain a mystery to me unless another one is found.

"I hereby declare the above statement to be in every part true, to the best of my powers of observation and recollection."

Signed William Roe

THE 'PEEPING-TOM' SNOWMAN

It was no ordinary type of prowler who peeped into the windows of the Earl Taylor home on the evening of September 24, 1959. Mr. Taylor, who lived on Clapps Chapel Road, in Knox county, Tennessee, informed sheriff's deputies that a "hulking thing, about ten feet tall" peered into his window. The beast ran off into the darkness when Taylor dashed out onto the porch of his home.

The alarmed homeowner called a neighbor, John Rosenbaum, to help watch for the strange peeper. The two men sat in Taylor's yard for a few minutes. Suddenly, a shadowy form stumbled out of the darkness and slammed against Taylor's automobile.

The two men ran toward the driveway. "I don't think that thing was human because it was moving too fast," said John Rosenbaum. He fired two shotgun blasts at the beast from a distance of fifty feet. "I can't say whether I hit it or not," he reported.

The intruder has not returned to peep in Taylor's window again.

GUATAMALA'S SINISTER EL SISEMITE MONSTERS

The Conquistadores from Spain were the first white men to hear about the deadly *el Sisemite*. "Stay near the villages," advised an Indian chieftain. "If you walk in the jungles, you will be eaten by the beast who walks like a man."

A Spanish captain grinned at the warning. "We've sailed the seas and conquered anyone who stands in our path," he boasted. "What is another tribe of Indians?"

"These are not Indians," said the chief. "They are a cross between man and the beasts. They are strong enough to carry the strongest warrior in their arms. Their fur is so thick that it stops the fastest spear!"

While the Conquistadores paid little heed to the warnings, there is evidence that the Indians were rightfully afraid of Guatamala's ABSM type of monster. Indians have limped out of the jungle to tell of being tossed about like a child when they chanced upon the creature. Many women have been abducted and carried off into the jungle caves. Young girls are a particular favorite of

these beasts and mothers instruct their children to beware of *el Sisemite*.

Like the Gilyaks of Siberia, the Indians claim *el Sisemite* is envious of their fire. "He wants to know the secret of flame," said an Indian. "Then, he could cook his food. We have seen *el Sisemite* hide near a village and stare in wonder as a woman cooks her husband's meals over a fire."

THE ROCK-THROWING SANDMEN OF AUSTRALIA

Mrs. Mabel Walsh, a housewife from Lindfield, Australia, and her nephew were driving down Wakehurst Parkway along Narrabeen Lake on the afternoon of April 4, 1968. Mrs. Walsh was driving the young man toward the airport and she happened to glance toward the lake.

The middle-aged mother of six children saw a man-sized creature walk out of the water, shuffle onto the beach and disappear into some shrubbery. "You can call me a nut if you wish," Mrs. Walsh informed reporters from the *Daily Sun*. "I know that I saw that creature. The sight really shocked me. My nephew, John, also saw it. I wasn't seeing things."

The startled Australian housewife said the creature has small eyes, a leather-like dark skin and thick, powerful legs. Mrs. Walsh reported she would have stopped to follow the creature except her nephew had to catch an air flight on his return to college.

Ever since Australia was settled, there have been reports of human-type animals roaming in the wilds. The aborigines in the 'out country' told early settlers about the 'men-beasts' in the deserts. These stories were met with so much skepticism that, even today, few of these stone age people will discuss the subject.

Bill Donovan, a global jack-of-all-trades, told newsmen in Sydney in the late 1930s that he encountered a ferocious tribe of ape-men during a search for a legendary mountain of gold known as Lassiter's Reef. "We were camped in a little canyon on the edge of a hard salt flat," said Donovan. "We were waiting for a supply plane to fly in with food and stuff. We heard a few noises that night. The next morning, a tribe of monkey men were staring down from the cliffs. As soon as we stood up, they threw stones and rolled boulders down on us."

Donovan, and his partner, Jerry Flynn, forgot their supplies. They rushed out of the canyon and onto the desert flats. "We were in a real pickle," he related. "Our guns were back there. All I had was an old revolver and a couple of cartridges. We stood there in the sun for several hours before those things disappeared."

Donovan and Flynn scrambled back to camp, hastily packed their provisions and moved out of the canyon. "I don't know what they were, but they were real mad," said Donovan. "They were sort of half men-half gorillas. We were frightened chaps. Luckily, the plane came in that afternoon. We flew out and never returned."

"What were they?" a reporter inquired.

"I don't know," replied Donovan. "I'll draw you a map. I won't go back."

Donovan inquired about the creatures when he returned to a trading post. "An old native aborigine came around and tried to bum some tobacco," he related. "He didn't seem surprised about the story. He said we'd stopped at sacred ground, a place where no native ever goes. I can see that these things could be pretty nasty. Those beasts are a bunch of hostile chaps."

There have been only a handful of ABSM reports from Australia, but we may have to add that 'down under' country to the list of spots where these sly creatures live.

THE MURDERING MONSTER OF DEAD MAN'S HOLE

Grisly Deadman's Hole in San Diego county, California was named in 1858 when the brutally battered body of a prospector was discovered in the desert area. "Look at his throat," said a doctor, who examined the body. "The poor soul was strangled by somebody, or something, with some awful strong fingers!" The second victim was found in 1888.

In 1922, William Blair's body was discovered in the same locale. He had been strangled and dragged around the area. That same year, a young Indian girl was found brutally violated and an autopsy revealed she had also been strangled.

Edward Dean and Frank Cox, two hunters, were intrigued by the deadly curse at Dead Man's Hole. Experienced woodsmen, they investigated the possibility of a bear laying in ambush for travellers.

They discovered tracks that led away from the area, followed them for a considerable distance and suddenly came upon a strange creature. "Do you see what I see?" Cox inquired, grabbing for his rifle.

"That thing looks like a gorilla?" said Dean, in a puzzled tone. "But, there aren't any gorillas around here."

The monster suddenly charged toward the two hunters. Frank Cox brought up his rifle and pumped several rounds into the roaring beast. The monster dropped at his feet. No autopsy was ever performed on the beast's corpse. However, Dean maintained the creature was no ordinary bear. "I got a close look," he recalled. "The hands and feet were really big. The face was almost human."

No one can state with positive assurance that the murderer of Dead Man's Hole was an ABSM. No record was kept of how the body was disposed of and, presumably, the creature was buried near the site of so many murders. After Cox and Dean shot down the hulking giant, travelers were never bothered again.

A NIGHT FIGHT WITH FLORIDA'S SANDMAN

During the past few years there have been an incredible number of encounters with grisly ABSMs in the southern region of the United States. One of the most startling of these experiences occurred on the evening of July 9, 1967, on a highway north of Tampa, Florida. Pale and shaken, a thirty-nine-year-old truck driver from Omaha, Nebraska, reported he was attacked by an angry, Frankenstein-like creature.

James Parkerton, an experienced over-the-road truck driver, said "this thing came up behind me, made a funny noise and then grabbed me. It was the most frightening moment of my life."

Parkerton was driving south on Interstate highway 75 sometime after midnight when he became drowsy. "I was going down there to pick up a load of vegetables and didn't have to be there until the following afternoon," Parkerton said. "A little ways past the Brookeville turn-off, I decided to pull off and sleep. I maneuvered the truck onto a small highway off the Interstate and

parked. It was a warm evening and the truck engine was putting out quite a bit of heat. I opened the passenger door, took off my shoes, and started to relax."

Without warning, Parkerton's rest was interrupted by crunching footsteps on the gravel walk outside his truck. "Fortunately, I reached over and snapped on the dims," he said. "I thought a state patrolman might have pulled up behind me."

"I started to raise up in the seat when I saw this thing come up to the door of the truck cab," he continued. "I know now where those guys get their ideas for those scary television shows and movies. This thing was tall, covered with a darkish hair and it stuck its face right into the cab. When the thing leaned in, its body pushed against my feet. That's how close we were."

The truck driver reported the creature was a mixture of man and ape. "The thing I remember about its face was that the features were pushed in, like on a gorilla, or like a bull-dog," he said. "I didn't have time to do any more looking because these two huge hands grabbed my legs. I fell off the seat and my head hit the gear shift as I was dragged out of the truck."

Screaming in terror, Parkerton desperately clawed and pummeled the beast with his fists. "My blows had no effect," he related. "The thing just tucked me under one of his arms like I was a rag doll. He didn't really have a hip, like a human. I was just sort of tucked in that big arm. Once, he reached over and sort of rearranged me. My head was pushed down into that fur, and I almost gagged from the stench."

The monster paid little heed to the struggling trucker. "With me under his arm, he walked around to the front of the truck and inspected the lights," Parkerton related. "He moved in front of the lights and sort of looked at me. It was as if he was inspecting me and deciding whether to keep me or throw me away."

Parkerton, who stands five feet eleven inches "without my boots," weighs two hundred and eight pounds. "He was handling me like I was nothing," the trucker said. "I knew I was in for bad trouble if he dragged me off. Actually, at that time, I didn't know what he wanted with me. I still don't. I just knew I wanted out of there."

The beast turned to leave the front of the truck. "I kicked out with my feet against the side of the truck fender," Parkerton declared. "I've never pushed that hard in my life. The pressure of my feet pushing against the truck threw him off balance. I could feel him weaving, stumbling around in the gravel, and trying to keep his balance. Then, his arms opened, and he dropped me to the ground."

Parkerton rolled, crawled and ran for his truck cab. "He wasn't far behind me," he related, "but I had time to slam the door. Thank God, he didn't know about windows. I hit the door lock, rolled up the window and jumped in the driver's seat. Mister, I was really leaning on that ignition key."

The creature was pounding against the truck cab when the engine started. "In my excitement to reach the gear shift, I hit the horn button," Parkerton said. "The thing went straight up in the air. He came down running. There was a field near there with some trees in it. I hit the air horns a few times as he ran into the trees. Believe me, he didn't look back for a second."

After his shocking experience, Mr. Parkerton pushed down on the accelerator and drove at top speed to a gas station and cafe on Interstate 75. "I couldn't even think straight or talk right," he said. "I got some black coffee and was shaking so much I spilled most of the stuff on the counter. I stayed right there until daylight. I told some people in the place about it. They acted like I'd just escaped from the funny farm. I called the Tampa police and they said it wasn't their problem. The policeman said

there were some other people who had seen this thing and it was probably an escaped gorilla. He said they'd have the state police check it out."

Parkerton ended his account, as have many other people who have seen ABSMs, with a bewildered "I don't know what to think anymore. How can such things run around loose in the twentieth century? It doesn't seem possible."

OREGON'S FANTASTIC BIG FOOT CREATURES

In October, 1959, two teen-aged boys reluctantly walked into the police station at Roseburg, Oregon, and said they had shot a monstrous, man-ape monster who was roaming in the woods a few miles southwest of the city.

"I got off five rounds from the 30.06 rifle," said one of the boys. "We were less than fifty yards from the thing. He ran off screaming into the brush."

The police investigated and discovered several man-like tracks. These prints measured fourteen inches in length and six inches in width. There were vivid outlines of five toes. Despite an apparent wound, the Oregon 'Big Foot' was never found.

Ever since the first pioneers brought their covered wagons over the Oregon Trail, the residents of the northwest have heard persistent reports on a 'big-footed' man-like animal prowling in the hills. On July 24, 1963, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Hennrich were fishing for trout along the Lewis river. The Portland couple informed

Oregon newsmen that a creature, larger than any human, with long hair, was sighted on a river bank.

A few days later, a speeding motorist pulled out to pass an automobile near Satus Pass and saw a giant creature on the roadway ahead. Conservation officers discovered several well-defined eighteen-inch tracks along the highway. "He was taking a six foot stride," they reported.

THE TEN-FOOT HORROR OF SONORA

It started with an anonymous telephone call to the sheriff's office in Sonora, California. An alarmed man reported he had seen a strange beast "at least ten feet tall" running around the Peter Pan subdivision, just west of the community of Cold Spring. "It was moving around and it was the most awful thing I've ever seen," he said. "I'm sober, I don't drink and I'm scared."

Deputy sheriffs William Huntley and Elbert Miller sped to the scene. They radioed reports to the sheriff's dispatcher that they heard sounds "like a person in trouble."

The animal seemed to circle their police car, yet the two law officers were unable to see anything in the heavy underbrush. They shouted into the darkness but were unable to scare the creature. "Yet, when we try to get closer it seems to move away from us," they reported.

The creature shrieked until 2 a.m. "I've never heard sounds like that and I've spent a lot of years in the woods," said deputy Elbert Miller.

CALIFORNIA'S BIG-FOOTED OH-MAHS

The Indians called them '*Oh-Mah*.' The first settlers and the forty-nine gold rushers quickly dubbed them 'Big Foot' because of the monstrous footprints found in the forest wilderness of California. 'Big Foot' remained a legend until August, 1958, when a construction crew was slashing a road through the rugged terrain near Bluff Creek, in Humboldt county, California.

An unknown visitor prowled around the construction camp at night. An 800-pound tire and wheel was lifted from a large earth-mover and carried to the far side of the camp. Something carried a drum of oil up a mountain slope and tossed the heavy object into a deep ravine. The only clue to the night prowler's identity were huge footprints found around the camp each morning. Plaster casts of the indentations showed a large, human-like footprint. Ivan T. Sanderson investigated and published his report in the December, 1959 issue of *True* magazine. Sanderson's article, "*The Strange Story of America's Abominable Snowman*" triggered other reports and 'Big

Foot' became the American version of the abominable snowman.

"I was up on the Chetco river in 1890," said one old timer. "We had a 'Big Foot' come into our logging camp at night. He destroyed anything left outside. One afternoon, a timber cruiser saw him in the forest. He said it was a giant apeman. We set out guards each night around our camp.

"One morning, our guards failed to come in for breakfast," he continued. "That ain't like a logging man. We went out to look. The poor souls had been picked up like firewood and slammed against those big tree trunks. We armed ourselves and followed the tracks. We had no doubts that old 'Big Foot' murdered them. We followed his trail far into the Siskiyou mountains and finally lost it in some volcanic rocks."

Another California logger had a scary encounter with a big-footed monster in February, 1962. Robert Hatfield, from Crescent City, had taken a few days off from his logging job to visit Mr. and Mrs. Bud Jenkins. The Jenkins home was approximately four miles from Fort Bragg, California, and one night Hatfield stepped outside the house to investigate a howling dog. Hatfield stepped onto the porch and saw a huge, hairy monster with a human-like face leaning over a yard fence.

"At first I thought a big bear had come up to the house," Hatfield told newsmen. "I ran back inside and woke up Jenkins. We went back outside."

The creature had vanished. The men went in opposite directions around the house. Hatfield dashed through the darkness and ran directly into the forest monster. Knocked to the ground, he looked up to see the frightening face of an angry creature.

Hatfield screamed a warning and both men rushed for the door. "We just got into the house," they reported. "He was right behind us and trying to come through the

door. We were pressing against the door with all of our strength. We couldn't begin to close it."

Jenkins ran for his rifle and, when he returned to the doorway, the gigantic intruder had disappeared. The two men showed several deep footprints to newsmen and law officers. They pointed to a muddy handprint on the side of the house. "That print measured eleven inches across," said a newsman. "It was the biggest handprint I've ever seen."

In *Strange Monsters and Madmen* (Popular Library) I described the 'apeman' of Tuolumne county, California. This ten-foot beast with an eight-foot stride has terrorized several residents of this area, located near the Yosemite National Forest. Footprints are often found after the night monster visits an outlying farm. Pilots, who fly over the mountains, have frequently seen shaggy-haired ABSMs moving through the snow along the timber line.

In another month, another year, and certainly in the near future, someone will launch an expedition into the California woods and return with a live specimen of the big-footed *Oh-Mah*. Then, we will see these mysterious beasts on our television news shows and realize that the earth still has many secrets.

THE CREATURE WHO INVADED LONG ISLAND

"There's a monster outside!"

This hysterical warning cry from an alarmed teenage girl alerted the employees and customers at a Long Island nursery and triggered a bizarre police manhunt for a macabre, ABSM type of creature. The beast had apparently stumbled into civilization and panic-stricken residents of New York State demanded police protection from such a wild intruder.

The incident started on the evening of June 30, 1931 at a small nursery near Mineola, Long Island, New York. The grounds of the nursery were filled with customers making their purchases when the alarm was sounded.

A frightened teenage girl came dashing into the show-room, pointing a quavering finger toward a grove of trees at the rear of the nursery grounds. Her adult companions stared in speechless awe as a broad, hairy creature, judged later to be about five feet in height, ambled out of the underbrush toward the building. The strange being was ape-like in appearance, yet had certain human characteristics, including the ability to walk erect on two feet.

As the monster's presence became known, the customers hastily retreated to the security of the showroom. One man raced for his car and sped down the highway toward Mineola to get the police.

A farmer peered out of the showroom window. He crossed himself. "It's the devil," he whispered.

"No. Apparently a gorilla has escaped from some circus," said another man, who believed in a practical, no-nonsense attitude toward any event.

"It's the end of the world," babbled a hysterical woman. "Those are the beasts the Bible talks about."

"I don't care what it is," growled an anxious gardener. "It's getting awfully close and we'd better be prepared to defend ourselves." He hurried to a back room and returned with an armload of hoes, rakes and axes. Nervously, he handed these objects to the shaken customers.

"All together. Let's go get it," growled a grim-faced man.

The door of the showroom was flung open and the desperate men prepared to battle the approaching creature. The startled beast saw the horde of howling men bearing down on him with murder in their eyes. The animal was almost transfixed with fear, then ran awkwardly through the nursery in a swift retreat.

"Chase it down, boys," cried the gardener. "We got the devil on the run!"

The men hurried through the long rows of plants in pursuit of their prey. The beast vanished into the thick brush at the edge of the field. It was twilight now and a deepening darkness hung over the shrouded grove.

"Boys, no use taking chances," snapped the gardener. "We'll wait for the police. They get paid to handle things like this."

A skeptical carload of sheriff's deputies were called to the scene. The eyewitnesses provided conflicting stories of the beast's description. An annoyed deputy finally snapped his notebook shut. "Whatever it was, it sounds

awfully bad," he announced. "We'll wait until morning before going in after it."

That night a flurry of reports from startled citizens poured into the Nassau County police departments. The ape had wandered into a quiet residential area and prowled through garbage cans. A woman stepped outside her home to call her dog and walked into a staring contest with the beast. A man was walking his dog when the pet growled and attacked a dark figure lurking behind a hedge. "The thing smelled like decaying flesh," he informed the harassed police officials.

With these reports pouring into his station, Mineola Police Captain Earle Comstock called in all of his policemen and set up a dozen special motor patrols. "Take your revolvers, sawed-off shotguns, tear gas and grenades," the policemen were told. "We have to get this thing before someone gets killed."

In the days that followed, the monster popped up in various places on Long Island. Alarmed citizens formed posses and patrolled their neighborhoods at night, armed with clubs, guns and sharpened pitchforks. Children scampered in their yards and invented new games involving an apeman. Policeman Fred Koehler was assigned to the case and investigated the statements from trembling eyewitnesses.

The police, citizen's posses and several home owners found many footprints belonging to the prowler. Casts were made of these indentations. An official from a zoo shook his head in despair. "Those prints resemble a man's hand more than an ape," he declared. "I don't know of any animal with these kind of tracks."

Despite a month of tearing about the Long Island landscape, the apeman was never captured. As the sightings dwindled, the police patrols were lifted and posses disbanded. To this day, no one can state positively what form of man or beast, or a combination of both, was known as the "monster of Mineola."

MYSTERY OF THE FROZEN MONSTER

Scientists across the world are waiting for the final chapter in a bizarre monster chase that has embroiled them in a whirling controversy concerning the abominable snowman. In the interim, if you happen to stumble over a strange, hairy creature entombed in a gigantic casket of sea ice, please call the Smithsonian Institution or the Federal Bureau of Investigation. They are searching for the carcass of an abominable snowman that was last seen on a farm near Rollingstock, Minn.

This latest chapter in ABSMery started in December, 1968, when Ivan T. Sanderson (author of *Abominable Snowman—Legend Come to Life*) received a report that the creature had been exhibited by a carnival operator, Frank Hansen, at a livestock exposition in Chicago. Sanderson, who reported on an examination of the carcass in the May, 1969, issue of *Argosy* magazine, is a well-known science writer with several degrees and an enthusiastic interest in ABSMs. He was accompanied to Minnesota by Dr. Bernard Heuvelmans, a Belgium scientist, who reported the findings in the *Journal of the Belgium Royal Institute of National Sciences*.

"I've known Dr. Heuvelmans for many years," said Dr. John Napier, primatologist and anatomist at the Smithsonian, "and he is a well-known scientist. He's specialized in unknown animals. All of his work has been done with the highest integrity."

Using a flashlight, Dr. Heuvelmans and Sanderson examined the creature encased in ice in a trailer on Hansen's farm in Rollingstock, Minn., near Winona. The list of statistics included:

- * The creature may be from an unknown race.
- * It was covered in thick, two-to-four inch brown hair, with the exception of certain areas around the face, palms, penis and bottoms of his feet.
- * The corpse was six feet tall, with a whitish, wax-like skin, a short neck, and a barrel-shaped chest and torso. The arms were long. The hands were extremely large.
- * The feet were neither those of a man nor ape. Unlike the apes, the big toe could not be moved freely. Yet, the soles of the feet were more wrinkled and contained more pads than modern man.

According to Heuvelmans' report, which was also printed in the *London Times*, the ice in which the animal was encased had been carefully shaved down in several areas to provide a closer look at the corpse. In one region, the ice had been shaved down too closely and "there was the unmistakable odor of decaying flesh."

Dr. Heuvelmans reported that a broken arm and a bullet wound in one of the eyes suggested the creature has been shot fairly recently at close-range with a high-powered rifle.

The Smithsonian Institution requested permission from Hansen, the carnival operator, to examine the corpse. Hansen declined, stating he had returned the creature to its original owner. Hansen has shown the beast in a traveling carnival for several years. He informed the Smithsonian that the ABSM belonged to a wealthy man who was not interested in having scientists examine it.

"I guess the owner feels we should go out and get our own," Dr. Napier remarked.

Hansen said the creature had been found floating in a block of ice in the Bering Straits by a Russian ship. The ship allegedly put into a Chinese port where the specimen was seized. It disappeared behind the bamboo curtain for an undertermined length of time. Another version has the creature being discovered by the crew of a Japanese fishing vessel and sold to a Hong Kong exporter.

These accounts led to confusion at the Smithsonian. "How could they get a large block of ice and that creature through customs?" someone wondered. Smithsonian officials recently confirmed that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was checking this aspect of the case.

Dr. Heuvelmans, in his thorough scientific report, indicated the hands and feet of the creature were out of proportion to the rest of the body. The hands were eleven inches long, seven inches wide. The feet were an enormous eight inches wide. He stated the thumb was longer than that of modern man and all of the creature's toes were close to the same size. The specimen was a human-like male adult with extreme hairiness and features distinctly different from all races of modern man.

The specimen is an apparently modern member of an unknown race of ape-like men, who are a possible throw-back to the Neanderthal period of history. Small, scattered bands of the creatures have apparently survived by remaining in isolated parts of the world.

A shaken scientist shook his head in bewilderment when informed of the discovery. "Assuming this is valid, I wonder if all of the tales of witches, flying saucers, ghosts and everything else might have some basis in fact," he said. "It will really be incredible if the abominable snowman is a living fossil from prehistoric times. Absolutely fantastic!"

Abominable snowmen do exist!

THE WORLD'S WEIRDEST SUB-HUMANS

Throughout time, men have reported the appearance of terrifying creatures — half ape, half man — in the mountainous regions of the world.

Here is the fascinating proof that these abominable snowmen do, in fact, exist. Here are documented accounts that will haunt you:

- Mesopotamia's mad monster invasion
- The abominable snowman who came to dinner
- The case of the Vanishing Yeti
- The ten foot creature of California
- Africa's mysterious furry friends
- Zana — the snowgirl who came in from the cold
- And more true tales of terror

Here are eyewitness reports by victims who lived to relate their incredible encounters, reports of carnivorous cannibals, sub-human kidnapers, super-human car snatchers, heinous headhunters, hairy beasts who pursue innocent people by night and in broad daylight. Here is the astonishing truth about

STRANGE ABOMINABLE SNOWMEN

FIRST TIME IN PAPERBACK

P O P U L A R



L I B R A R Y